

gay community news

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ART & POETRY REVIEW

PHILA. WOMEN FIGHT DEXTER

COALITION AGAINST BRIGGS

HARTFORD GAY RIGHTS...ALMOST

State Court Leaves Question on Ballot Groups Join Together to Fight Initiative

By Jim Marko

SAN FRANCISCO — A newly-formed coalition of organizations has agreed to combat the anti-gay Briggs Initiative here. The Bay Area Committee Against the Briggs Initiative, Concerned Voters of California and San Franciscans United have met and laid the groundwork for combining their efforts against the Initiative.

Milk Speaks

San Francisco City Supervisor Harvey Milk told GCN that the coalition "must work toward breaking down fear." With the groups working together, Milk, part of the leadership of San Franciscans United, said there can be a state-wide media campaign against the Initiative.

"More importantly," Milk added, "is the door-to-door registering of gay voters. Every poll shows us that the people who know gay people will vote with us."

An Army of Gays

"We want an army of gays to come out to friends and relatives. We feel that if every gay person came out to a friend or relative, we can win. There are roughly half a million gays in this state, and the emphasis must be directed toward that community so that it will campaign," Milk said.



Harvey Milk

Howard Wallace, with the Bay Area Committee, has said that his organization has always encouraged mutual fund-raising and cooperative actions by the groups opposed to the Initiative. Support for the coalition also came from the Don Bradley Associates, which is managing the media campaign for Concerned Voters of California.

Another Setback

Shortly after the California organi-

zations pledged to work together against Briggs, there was yet another setback in their campaign. The California State Supreme Court refused to block the Initiative from appearing on the ballot.

The decision was based on a petition filed by several gay organizations and individuals which charged that political and privacy rights are denied by the mere presence of the question on the ballot. The court ruled, without comment, against the petition filed by the California Federation of Teachers, Lesbian Schoolworkers, Gay Teachers, and Schoolworkers Coalition, Gay Teachers of Los Angeles, the Gay Academic Union, the Pride Foundation, and several individuals.

MCC Challenge Remains

The high court in California has yet to rule on another petition against Briggs filed by the Metropolitan Community Church. The MCC action called for removal of the measure because of its denial of religious freedom.

The church group claimed that gay school employees in its congregation are fearful that their religious association could later be used against them if the Initiative is approved in November.

Support and Optimism

Despite the setbacks there has been some support for the fight against the Briggs question. The San Francisco Bar Association rejected the Initiative as has the 2000 member Barristers Club, an organization of attorneys under 36 years of age.

The Barristers argued that the Initiative would "cause teachers to lose their jobs as a result of the exercise of their rights of association and speech or their sexual orientation," and added, it would "punish school employees for their lifestyles and/or expressions of their political and personal beliefs."

The attorneys' organization also stated that the vagueness of the Initiative would "likely lead to unclear and unequal enforcement."

City Supervisor Milk, who welcomed the lawyers' remarks, remained optimistic about the battle against Briggs. "If we don't get the gay community to campaign," he said, "we are in trouble."

"But I am an optimist and it is possible to counter the filth and lies that are being spread by the Briggs people... all gays have got to come out and fight this," Milk said.

Mayor Athanson Has Reservations Hartford Mayor Vetoes Passed Ordinance

By Don Zajac

HARTFORD, CT — On Monday, July 26, the city council here passed a gay rights ordinance by a vote of 5 to 2. It protected the rights of gay city employees, but not teachers, and employees of any company doing business with the city. However, a delayed airplane flight to Greece left Mayor George A. Athanson in this country long enough to veto the measure.

Athanson Questions

In his veto message, the mayor questioned the means by which the ordinance would be enforced and the applicability of the ordinance to the board of education. "I have some serious questions on whether it affects

teachers," the mayor said.

Athanson also felt that a Fair Employment Practices Act would be a fairer and more comprehensive means of dealing with discrimination. According to Athanson, the mayor has five days to veto any city council measure and if it were not for the delay in his flight, he would not have been able to act.

Override Unlikely

Six votes will be needed to override the veto and it is doubtful this can be done. Councilor Richard Suisman, one of the anti-discrimination measure's co-sponsors, will be out of the country during the period that the city charter mandates the action must be taken. Councilor Barbara Kennelly, who was

absent from the Monday vote, is believed to be supportive, however, and could provide the sixth vote if Suisman were to be present.

As it appears now, however, the rights ordinance is dead. Deputy Mayor Nicholas Carbone, the other sponsor of the measure, stated that the ordinance will be re-introduced. "We will have a gay rights ordinance, it's just a matter of time," he said.

Task Force Looks Ahead

The Connecticut Gay Task Force has said that the vetoed ordinance should be "scrapped" and replaced with a comprehensive one that would include provisions for housing and public accommodations. The new ordinance, the group said, should also include all min-

orities in the city, not merely the gay community.

At present Hartford does not have a human rights ordinance of any kind on the books. The citizens of Connecticut's capital must rely on state statutes when dealing with cases of discrimination.

Thirty-One Cities

Hartford would have been one of 32 cities in the country if the ordinance was not vetoed by Mayor Athanson. To date, 31 American cities have gay rights ordinances, while four counties have passed anti-discrimination measures. The most recent ordinances have become law in San Francisco and Ingham County, Michigan.

A Therapist Looks for Reasons Behind Recent Attacks on Gays

By Harold Pickett

NEW YORK CITY — On July 5, 1978, at least six men were savagely clubbed with baseball bats in the Ramble section of Central park by a roving gang of young thugs. Five of the men, including Dick Button, a sportscaster and former Olympic skating champion, were hospitalized with fractured skulls. Even though the Ramble is a well-known homosexual cruising area, the daily papers hesitated at first to term the attacks as gay related. Regardless of the reasons for hesitation, the papers could not avoid the gay issue for long.

Six suspects, four adults and two juveniles, have been arrested in the case. *The New York Times* stated, "The police said the suspects showed no re-

morse and even boasted that they would engage in similar actions again." The *Times* quoted one suspect as saying that all the Central Park victims were homosexuals and, "We went out to get faggots, because we hate them."

Michael Moss is a Jungian psychotherapist in private practice in Greenwich Village. He agreed to discuss the Central Park case and the psychology of the perpetrators with *GCN*.

Moss described the thugs as "psychotic homophobes," who experienced their psychotic outbreak when the barriers on their primitive impulses weakened. They succumbed to "the shadow, which is everything in one's psyche that is unacceptable to one's ego; such things as are repressed, suppressed, denied, reviled, hated, every-

thing that turns you off, that you don't want to admit in your own self." Such a mental state is "very emotional, extremely hot."

Moss pointed out, too, the aspect of the gang phenomenon "in which the level of group consciousness is lower than that of [any] individual consciousness." The crowd phenomenon is that individual rage is catalyzed to expression.

However, "the direct, exact quality of the phenomenon is that they were worried about their own sexuality. Such worries center on and compensate for feelings of castration and ineffectuality by exhibiting macho behavior."

"The craziness begins when they start bashing heads, which is a real breakdown in the psyche. At that point, they're unable to stop them-

ves. David Berkowitz, the Son of Sam, was doing something he was primed to do, but he acted only in a particular situation. These guys went into the park ready to do battle with anyone they *thought* was gay. They were indiscriminate, to the point of almost beating a short-haired woman. They were not, though, psychotic in the same sense as Berkowitz, who was hearing voices, but they were immersed in the group psychosis."

The societal aspects of the case were referred to by Moss, who said, "Things are heating up now. There's a gay revolution going on." Moss, who is not gay himself, said, "Gays want to become socially acceptable, to become politically powerful and to gain access to the media. There is a pressure on the

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NEWS NOTES

MATLOVICH ON NBC

NEW YORK CITY — Just one week after GCN questioned NBC about the delay in airing "Sergeant Matlovich Versus the United States Air Force," [see GCN Vol. 6, No. 1] the television network has announced that the film will be shown. Most NBC-TV stations will air the made-for-television drama at 9 p.m., Aug. 21.

Jim Murray of NBC told GCN that the network "made some revisions in the August schedule" and decided to air the controversial movie. The film is based on the life of Air Force Sgt. Leonard Matlovich who was discharged because he is gay. It had been completed more than a year ago.

Leonard Matlovich, however, is not completely pleased by the NBC decision. He told GCN that there is some indication that the network will not be promoting the program. "If that turns out to be true," Matlovich said, "I will scream to the press about censorship by fear."

SEATTLE COULD BE NEXT

SEATTLE — August 1 is the filing deadline for supporters of an anti-gay initiative in this city. Initiative 13 supporters are continuing their efforts to get enough signatures to qualify for the November city ballot. The measure, supported by an organization called Save Our Moral Ethics (SOME), would repeal Seattle's law which protects gays from discrimination in jobs and housing.

Seattle Citizens to Retain Fair Employment has received a \$2000 donation from the Playboy Foundation to help in its fight against Initiative 13.

ERA TROUBLES

WASHINGTON, DC — Apparently the Equal Rights Amendment extension measure, passed by the House Judiciary Committee last week, may have a difficult time getting through the Senate.

Republican leader Howard Baker said that he doubts the Senate would consider the legislation this session. Refusal of the Senate to act before the mid-October adjournment would almost certainly doom the extension bill.

"I'm not sure it will come up in the Senate," Baker said. "I rather doubt it will." The Republican Senator did concede, however, that he had not discussed the possibility of calling up the measure with Democratic leader Robert Byrd.

Without the extension, the ERA would have to be ratified by March 22, 1979. Proponents feel that the date cannot be met because of state legislature timetables. The ERA has been ratified by 35 of the 38 states required.

CAPOTE: KILL ACCIDENTALLY

NEW YORK CITY — Writer Truman Capote said that he would probably end up killing himself "accidentally." Appearing on a local New York television talk show drunk and incoherent, Capote said that he "had been boozing and taking drugs for about two days straight."

The author added that he was suffering from anxiety and that "nothing had ever jelled" in his life.

D.C. ANTI-REPEAL EFFORT

WASHINGTON, DC — The City Council here recently refused to vote on a bill containing a provision that would have helped gays fight a referendum approving discrimination against minorities.

Objections to the bill, which was drafted by the D.C. Gay Activists Alliance, came from the legal counsel and the Corporation Council of the District. They argued against the measure as "legally insufficient," claiming that restricting the type of referenda which could be held under the act would "exceed the purpose of the enabling legislation and that it indirectly amends the City Charter."

Gay leaders filed a detailed rebuttal to Council claims, indicating a number of legal precedents and arguments on behalf of the measure, which won the support of the Government Operations Committee. "We are convinced that our legal arguments have merit," the GAA brief said, "and the Government Operations Committee has agreed. Yet the case is not 100% clear either way."

The measure, which was part of a bill required to implement the new voter-approved Initiative Referendum and Recall Act, was returned to the Government Operations Committee. No further action is expected until after the September primary elections.

GAY VOTER POWER

BOSTON — The Massachusetts Caucus for Gay Legislation is gearing up its voter identification and voter turn-out drive for the month of August. The registration effort begins in the first week of August with major emphasis being placed on the 20 precincts in Wards 4 and 5 (Back Bay and Beacon Hill) of the city.

MCGL will be calling as many people as possible between Aug. 2 and 22 in an effort to register the gay vote.

MCGL has also announced that on Aug. 12, national gay activist Rev. Troy Perry will be the featured speaker at a Community Rally and Celebration of Gay Voter Power. The rally, to which political figures supportive of gay rights have also been invited, will be held at the Arlington Street Church at 7:30 p.m. Tickets to the event will be \$3.

FCC RULES FOR WGBH

BOSTON — The Federal Communications Commission has denied a petition filed against the public television station here, WGBH-TV, for broadcasting obscene programs. The petition was filed by a group called Morality in Media in Massachusetts, Inc.

MMM had charged that the station had run programming which depicted homosexuality in a positive light [see GCN Vol. 5, No. 35]. A documentary on State Rep. Elaine Noble was condemned by the group as "promoting lesbianism," while an episode of "Monty Python" was cited for advocating transvestism. The group also cited "Masterpiece Theatre" and "Gay Brother" for advocating "immorality."

The FCC ruled that it is prohibited by the First Amendment and by its law from censoring broadcast matter. The ruling stated that the FCC does not attempt to direct stations in the selection or presentation of their programs.

BROWN APPOINTS GOODSTEIN

SACRAMENTO, CA — California Gov. Jerry Brown, keeping a promise made to the state's gay community, has appointed a gay person to a position in his administration. Brown announced the appointment of David Goodstein, publisher of *The Advocate*, to the new state advisory council on economic development.

Brown has been continuing efforts to secure gay support in his re-election effort. He was rejected by the Gay Caucus in a recent California Democratic Council meeting in San Diego. The Democratic governor met with gay activists in Los Angeles recently where he voiced his opposition to the anti-gay Briggs Initiative.

Publisher Goodstein said he was "honored" by his appointment. "I think it is a sign of the governor's confidence in our community and in me that he would make such an appointment. He's not afraid of appointing a gay to a committee that deals with the problems of the entire state," Goodstein said.

MINN. CITY DROPS RIGHTS

COON RAPIDS, MN — The City Council here has voted to drop the words "sexual and affectional preference" from the law books. The council voted 3 to 2 against a recommendation by the city's Human Rights Commission to keep that language in the law. The anti-discrimination change was made in 1975.

Last summer the City Council of Coon Rapids rejected a human rights ordinance similar to the one voted down recently by voters in St. Paul, Minn. Up until the recent vote, however, city hiring and personnel policies contained provisions that prohibited discrimination based on sexual or affectional preference.

MOVE AGAINST OLD LAWS

PARIS, France — The second chamber of the French Parliament, the Senate, has passed a bill abolishing all the existing laws against male homosexuality. The government itself proposed the change in the law, which was passed unanimously.

At present there are two ages of consent in France, 15 for all heterosexuals and lesbians, 18 for gay men.

Aleph, the Information Center on Homosexuality, issued a statement welcoming the government's action. Aleph pledged itself to continue fighting for gay equality to areas outside the criminal law.

The Senate bill is expected to pass before the National Assembly some time in the fall. It is expected that the measure will be approved.

GAY DAYS IN TORONTO

TORONTO, Canada — The gay community here will sponsor GAYDAYS, a celebration of gay history and culture, from Aug. 24 through 27. Thirty to 35 gay organizations from the metropolitan area, Ontario and the rest of North America will gather at Queens Park to "reaffirm gay liberation." David Thorstad, co-author of the *Homosexual Rights Movement*, will be a featured guest speaker at the event.

Gordon Montabor, co-ordinator of the festival, told GCN, "We have had a few bad times in the city and a fair amount of bad press coverage with the *Body Politic* case in particular. What we are trying to do is reach straight people as well as gays who are not affiliated with any homosexual groups."

For further information contact Liberated Energy, 4 Collier St., Toronto M4W 1L7 or call (416) 961-4161.

BOSTON/BOISE MEETING

BOSTON — Tom Reeves of the Boston/Boise Committee has thanked the community for its support in attendance at the benefit showing of the Rosa von Praunheim film "It's Not the Homosexual . . ." Some 200 people attended the showing of the controversial film.

The next Boston/Boise meeting will be held on Aug. 1 at 8 p.m. at the Old West Church, 131 Cambridge St.

JAYCEES ORDER WOMEN OUT

TULSA, OK — The United States Jaycees has ordered all women out of its group by Dec. 1. Women members in any chapters must leave by that date or the chapters will face revocation of their charters in the all-male organization.

In the last four years, delegates to the annual Jaycees meeting have twice turned down proposals that would allow women full membership in the organization.

Three years ago women were admitted to some state chapters under a "pilot program," but Jaycees President Barry L. Kennedy said that the bylaws had not been changed and that the programs must be halted.

GAY HORIZONS

CHICAGO — Gay Horizons, a non-profit community service organization, recently received its 510-C(3) tax-exempt status. This means that people donating funds will be able to itemize those amounts on their income tax returns.

Under section 501-C(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code, private individuals as well as government organizations will find it easier to provide donations to Horizons as a result of the latter's recent achievement.

Very few gay groups in the nation possess such a status. It is mandatory, however, that in order to retain it, Horizons must continue to meet its social expectations and not use its funds for such recreational or private activities as a drop-in center, coffeehouse, or the like.

Programs in Horizons benefited by the 501-C(3) status include the Gay/Lesbian Switchboard, Gay People's Counseling Service women's group catering specifically to lesbians, and a program for alcoholics.

S.F. GAY TV SHOW

SAN FRANCISCO — A weekly gay television show is scheduled to begin here this month. *Starlight Magazine* will be aired on cable Channel 6 and will feature segments on Brian Bullard, dancer in the Pacific Ballet; Ginny Vida, editor of *Our Right to Love*; the local softball league opening; an interview with San Francisco City Councillor Harvey Milk; and an interview with people in the street asking, "What would like to see on a gay television show?"

The San Francisco cable television show will be the second gay show in the country. *Emerald City* can be seen on New York City's cable Channel J.

MORE ON CAPOTE

NEW YORK CITY — According to *New York* magazine, Truman Capote is "distressed" over the two-part article on his "private world" which appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*.

A close friend of Capote's is quoted as saying the author feels the "articles portray him as a home wrecker." Capote is also apparently upset with the many friends quoted in the *Times* piece.

"All of us thought it was a positive piece. But then again, Truman's more sensitive than most," the friend said.

Boston Public Library Threatened with Suit Library Permits Speakers' Bureau Use of Hall

By Jim Marko

BOSTON — After being threatened with a lawsuit, the Boston Public Library has agreed to allow the Gay Speakers' Bureau use of a lecture hall. Attorney John Ward, who took the case for the Bureau along with Attorney Michael Avery, told GCN that Library Director Phillip McNiff called him on July 26 to inform him the group could use the Rabb Lecture Hall on September 5.

It was Ward's contention that McNiff's refusal was unconstitutional and he was prepared to charge as much in the planned law suit. "Even though we did not have to go to court," Ward said, "this is a clear-cut victory."

Straight Talk About Lesbians

On April 17, 1978, David Peterson of the Speakers' Bureau requested, in writing, use of the Rabb Lecture Hall



Atty. John Ward

Michael Thompson

at the library for May 3 or May 10. The organization planned on presenting a showing of "Straight Talk About Lesbians," a 35-minute slide show with sound.

The program, Peterson told GCN, is a show which presents and refutes common misconceptions about lesbians, focusing on lesbian culture. "It is something that straight people should see," Peterson said, "because it confronts some of the stereotypes and myths about lesbians."

In the written request to the library, Peterson stated that the dates and times requested were flexible. As a follow-up to the letter, he also made a telephone request to BPL Assistant Director John J. Doherty on April 27.

BPL Refusal

In a letter dated May 1, 1978, Doherty

turned down the group's request for the lecture hall. Writing that the library was "unable to honor your request," Doherty added that the meeting rooms at the BPL are "primarily for library sponsored programs and are fully booked."

Peterson said the bureau was surprised by the refusal. "I think that it is absurd that a public education group — any group like the Speakers' Bureau — would have to threaten a lawsuit to get space."

Out of Court Discussions

Since the denial by the BPL's Doherty, Attorneys Ward and Avery engaged in written discussions with the library staff about the refusal.

On May 18, 1978, Ward and Avery wrote to Doherty pointing out "consti-

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Amnesty International Continues Debate on Accepting Gay Prisoners

By Philip Shehadi

LONDON — The British section of Amnesty International has voted against supporting a resolution to extend the human rights organization's mandate to include cases of imprisonment for "sexual orientation or behavior." But according to London's *Gay News* the decision was far from unanimous and might even be reconsidered.

The opposition centered principally around the use of the term "sexual orientation or behavior." It was felt that it included far too wide a range of sexual acts (adultery, for example) to be either acceptable to the international community or feasible for Amnesty International to defend. The organization is already overburdened with cases, it was argued, and would be even less able to function effectively should

it take up the cause of sexual freedom "across the board." (Although the resolution excludes child-adult sexual relationships.)

Similar arguments were raised against the resolution when it was introduced at the annual meeting of Amnesty's International Council last September [see GCN, Vol. 5, No. 20]. Backed mainly by the French and American delegations, it proved highly controversial and was at that time tabled and submitted for further study to the International Executive Committee. The committee is to give its report before the final vote at the upcoming International Council meeting this September in Cambridge, England.

But throughout there has been con-

siderable support within the international body for the adoption of prisoners imprisoned because of their homosexuality (as opposed to "sexual behavior" in general).

Larry Cox, an American delegate to last year's International Council meeting, told GCN that it is his impression that "the will of the majority is to take up gay cases." This includes the British section, the chairperson of which, Paul Oestreicher, has said, "I would like Amnesty to find some way of helping people who are genuinely persecuted because of their homosexuality without getting mixed up in sexual law reform across the board."

Cox is confident that if the broad "sexual orientation or behavior" resolution fails, something will be worked

out to cover "homosexuality." He suggested that persons imprisoned for their homosexuality will be taken up by the organization as prisoners of conscience in so far as what is seen as a "fundamental human right" has been violated. The most notable case of imprisonment for homosexuality is that of the Russian film director Sergei Paradzhanov, released in January after nearly five years in a Soviet labor camp. His case was apparently what prompted the French section to bring up the issue.

Amnesty International is interested in any information readers may have about other cases of imprisonment for homosexuality. Their New York address is 2112 Broadway, New York, NY 10023.

Homophile Community Health Service Given Major Grant by State

By Lisa Nussbaum

BOSTON — Homophile Community Health Service (HCHS), a state-licensed outpatient mental health clinic, recently won a \$40,000 contract from the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health. This \$40,000 sum, effective Sept. 1, 1978 through June 30, 1979, represents one of the highest awards ever made to a gay organization.

Sue Rosen, HCHS Director since last August, described the award as "a major breakthrough in that state mental health services are now beginning to recognize that they owe something to the gay client." The money, she explained, will permit HCHS to enlarge its clinical staff, with the larger aim of further professionalizing and upgrading the quality of clinical services.

Since its inception seven and a half years ago, HCHS, one of the oldest mental health clinics in the country, counted heavily on a volunteer staff. Its income derived almost entirely from the low to moderate fees charged to clients. As Rosen put it, "We survived

for these years on the strength of dedicated volunteers and the willingness of paid people to get paid very little and work very hard."

After working with a low budget and great deficiencies over the years, this money will begin to make a dent in relieving those deficiencies, said Rosen. "We're very happy about it," she added.

"More and more we are discovering that gay people want quality health care," observed Rosen. "Our caseload has jumped over 30% in the last six months. From the beginning we've been without a clinical director. To fill these gaps, we will use the money to enlarge our paid staff, including hiring a clinical director. We want to keep up with the demand for services and to improve the quality of these services."

Writing of the contract, insertion of it into legislative budget hearings, then its subsequent passage culminated what began for Rosen as sustained efforts at "shoring up HCHS' finances." Last January, Rosen started pol-

iticking through the mid-level mental health bureaucracy to get leads for funding sources. In April, with the help of Rep. Elaine Noble (D-Back Bay), she and Rep. Barney Frank (D-Back Bay) met with Massachusetts Commissioner of Mental Health Dr. Robert Okin.

Prepared to document "from ground zero" the particular needs of gay people not being met through existing mental health channels, Rosen found Okin very responsive to these needs. In fact, Rosen explained, "Okin made many of the arguments to me that I stood ready to make to him."

Out of this meeting, Frank, who sits on the House Ways and Means Committee, and Okin agreed on a figure of \$40,000. Next came the task of putting the figure in writing, in the form of a contract, getting the approval of the Associate Commissioner of Mental Health, Mary Jane England, and finally having it inserted into the budget hearings.

As the contract made its way down

the line and through those hearings, gay people found some political friends they didn't know they had, Rosen commented.

At the end of the budget controversy, HCHS' contract (as well as other social service contracts) got trimmed to five-sixths of its original size — from \$40,000 to \$33,333. This trimming meant that in principle the state adhered to the original \$40,000, but in practice started out the contract two months later than would normally be the case — Sept. 1 instead of July 1. So, this year's award represents the minimum sum possible when the contract comes up for renewal next June. "We will, however, try for a larger sum at that time," Rosen stated.

Even though the award, "relatively speaking, may be a drop in the bucket," Rosen noted, "it's a start. At the very least, it will insure our serving the gay community for years to come."

Washington Police Investigate Increase in Murders of Gays

WASHINGTON, DC — Police here in the nation's capital are asking the gay community for information about the recent murders of seven gay men. Homicide detectives reported that all the men were known to frequent bars and other spots in the section of the city near 13th St. and New York Ave., N.W.

Six of the murders have occurred since January, while the first happened last September. Investigators say all of the victims are believed to have had their assailants in their homes or cars.

The victims ranged in age from 25 to 68, and all except one lived in Washington.

The investigators of the murders say they have yet to determine whether the killings were connected to the hustler trade in that area of the city or whether an outside group is preying on gay men in the New York Ave. area.

Lt. Raymond Pierson of the District Homicide Division has discounted the theory that there is a roaming gang preying on lone homosexuals. "If you think," he said, "the bottom line is

that there's a gang out killing homosexuals, my answer is no." But Lt. Pierson told the Washington newspaper, *The Blade*, "There seems to be more homosexual killings, and I don't know why."

Police also say a large number of robbery and assault cases known to be occurring in the so-called hustler area go unreported. The lack of reporting, according to police, is hindering the investigation of the more violent crimes.

People with knowledge of the murders, the victims, or any other infor-

mation are urged to contact investigators through the DC Homicide Division. According to the *Blade*, all information will be kept in the strictest confidence.

Those people who are reluctant to speak to the police may contact the *Blade* instead at (202) 785-3009.

Police identified the dead men as Roland C. Pratt, Donald M. Cooper, Paul Tonelli, Charles J. Kirkland, Winston T. Williams, all of Washington, and Benjamin Raines, who lived in Virginia.

EDITORIAL

Hunting Gays': No Isolated Incident

“Queer bashing,” “fag baiting,” or the more innocuous *Village Voice’s* “hunting gays” — it’s been going on for more years than most people can remember. During the night of July 5, a gang of bat wielding anti-gay street toughs from New York’s East Side went on one of those sprees against lone gay men. After the rampage, five men ended up in various hospitals with serious injuries.

This incident may have gone all but unreported in the straight media in New York, save for the fact that one of those injured was Dick Button, a former Olympic ice skater and now sportscaster. The *New York Times* put the beatings on the front page of its July 6 edition, devoting most of the article to Button and his injuries.

The attack occurred in the Ramble in Central Park. The Ramble has long been a gay cruise area, and it has long been the scene of vicious and unwarranted attacks by young men as sick and as misguided as those who attacked on that July 5 night.

There was little note in the *Times* of the fact that gays are continually victims of violent acts. Gay journalist Arthur Bell, who spends his *Bell Tells* space in the *Village Voice* on his latest trip to Studio 54, was given front page space for two weeks running. Bell found his “exclusive interviews” with the victims and his morbid interest in the youth gang fit topics for discussion. He avoided the larger issue of the ever-increasing violence against gays.

It is not enough to just point out that youth gangs are roaming the streets and parts of every city screaming, “Let’s kill a fag,” or “This is for Anita.” It is time

that we look into the reasons behind this violence and the obvious hatred of gays.

In the July 24 issue of *New York* magazine (another major publication which sensationalized the Central Park beatings), reporter Doug Ireland spoke to Dr. John Money, a professor of medical psychology at Johns Hopkins University.

“In every case of this type I’ve seen in 30 years of work in this field, I have found such young men, attracted to homosexuality *and* acting it out. On the other, they try to destroy it,” Money said.

Through teachings in the school and at home and in church, children learn that gays are “sick” and “evil.” Campaigns, headed by legitimate “stars” and politicians, are waged against these “sinners” and “perverts.” Hatred against gays is taught in the most blatant and subtle ways by organizations from the KKK to the Nazi Party to the Catholic Church.

It is not enough to merely decry with rightwous outrage the attacks on a number of lone gay men in Central Park. We must fight every day against the insidious anti-gay attitude that has become as American as the deep-seated hatred of Third World people, Hispanics, so many minorities, and women.

We must fight on every front against ignorance and hatred. We must stand in the face of anti-gay legislation, sermons and speeches. Don’t let your outrage abate with the end of the headlines in the straight media. Be aware that gay people are the targets of oppression, hatred and violence every day. Stand and be prepared to battle against the forces that would club you down in a park, in a pulpit or in a voting booth.

COMMUNITY VOICES

GCN welcomes letters to Community Voices. If at all possible, your letters should be typed and double-spaced. Anonymous letters will not be published, but names will be withheld on request. Letters should be addressed to Community Voices, GCN, 22 Bromfield St., Boston, MA 02108.

what's in a name

Dear GCN:

GCN has always been the more tolerant (what a word to need!) of the two main components of Boston's gay press. That may be changing. While *Esplanade* won't publish negative letters without “editing in” eviscerating typo, GCN now won't publish letters signed with pseudonyms.

Tacky-tacky-tacky. Those of us who can't yet risk having our names published must step aside to make room for (or pretense toward) the “very-out” folks. Letters hafta be signed with a name. This seems an unusual policy for a paper that has employed the likes of Kruk, A. Nolder Gay, Satya Littlesomething, etc. Selective vanity?

I firmly believe that what little (if any) “responsibility” you may gain by signing people “John Smith” (GCN Community Voices, “Fueling Your Own Complaint,” 7/15/78) is cancelled by the *smothering* effect it has on the writer's self-esteem. Please realize this: signing one's full name is still unthinkable for many people. A pseudonym gives “half-out” people a way to participate without being anonymized. “Name Withheld” often just doesn't make it. One may as well stop writing.

My name is *not* John Smith. My name is also not easy to send to a gay newspaper for publication. Please rethink your no-masks policy. I would prefer not to have my pride “withheld” along with my identity.

Greenfox
Boston

Editor's Note: Seems to be some confusion here. GCN runs all the letters we receive which are "signed." We have never had a policy of refusing pseudonyms. We will withhold names, but as noted only on request. As for "John Smith" — that was the name signed on the letter. We withhold no "pride" and welcome all letters.

setting the record

Dear GCN,

As one of the few people mentioned by name in Bill Mulkern's saga of GCN infighting (“Fear and Loathing at GCN,” Vol. 6, No. 1), I would like to set the record “straight” in a few areas. First, my “unfortunate editorial squabbles” with columnist A. Nolder Gay while I was news editor amounted to one clear-headed critique of the federal government by A. Nolder, one muddled defense of the New Deal by me, and one rather cranky rebuttal by A. Nolder. Our “quarrel” was strictly one of ideas and not personalities, as Mulkern suggests. Lyn Rosen was the redoubtable A. Nolder's editor, and the only time I had ever spoken with him up till that point was to thank him for some wonderful spiced wine which he brought to GCN layout one Christmas, an event probably more memorable than anyone's views on government, big or small.

I'm amazed to see that what seems like years later, the Susan Saxe case is still able to polarize virtually everyone who still remembers who she was. Mulkern quotes one anonymous staff writer as saying that “the editor at the time was unable to control the women covering Saxe, and they had virtually total editorial freedom.” I won't elaborate on the obvious sexism of that remark. I would like to add that it was one woman — Nancy Wechsler — who wrote almost all the Saxe pieces and did a fine job. Nancy and I worked closely on the Saxe coverage, spending long hours thrashing out what was “objective” and what was “biased,” but in the end it was totally my decision as to how much coverage to give the Saxe and Grand Jury issues and where to place it in the paper. I believed at the time and still believe that our coverage of a lesbian feminist revolutionary's experience with the judicial and prison systems in this country was both fascinating and enlightening. It might have even given Andy Young pause.

Now on to the dispute over whether GCN should have gotten involved with the Club Baths male beauty contest (which in the end was won by a straight man). Mulkern's article gives the impression that the staff was split along male-female lines, with the men supporting the contest. Not true. In point of fact several of the men on the staff at that time, including both myself and art director Steve Blevins, strongly opposed GCN involvement in the contest. And the Club Baths management was hopping mad at our decision to put principles before pocketbook and certainly did not view the matter as “ridiculously trivial.” One further comment: Although Joe Leo was in the forefront of trying to get the contest approved and this propelled him on his way to founding *Esplanade*, Leo did not take “a sizable bloc” of writers with him. In fact the only writer who left GCN for *Esplanade* was A. Nolder Gay and this was a long time later.

Yours in Struggle,

Neil Miller
Cambridge, MA

on not being 'normal'

Dear GCN,

I would like to take some time to respond to a piece of malarkey of the greatest magnitude I can recall. I am referring to a Forum column written by Kenneth Ramandine in the July 15 issue.

I fail to understand how “Becoming Normal Citizens” will help our situation. I look back over the past two centuries in history and recall that all gay people were “normal citizens” in earlier days. Believe me, oppression was much more intense at the time because straight people could not see decent role models — we were all invisible. The only gays ever seen were drag queens and psychopathic rapists who also happened to be gay. It wasn't until very recently that the social scientists (often upheld as objective and fair) began to think of us as *maybe* a little more than sick, mentally deranged, perverts. For a long time we took all the shit meant for the few psychopaths (child-molesters and the like) and those few “flaming fags.”

Mr. Ramandine, if you are determined to accept the apologetic closet society has chosen for you, you would also do well to realize the side effects that have been elicited by this attitude in the past:

—neighbors who find out accidentally, break windows, burn houses, or sometimes organize community lynchings;

—your employer would be likely to fire you instantly;

—walk a bit too close to your lover and a street gang may beat and knife you.

This is the way it was years ago. Is this what you want to go back to? I don't call this “living.” Without a more open environment, it could happen at any time.

Pride marches are very necessary. They show the public that we have self-confidence, that we look, talk and walk just like them. More importantly, marches help to show *us* that we're really not that alone. We feel a sense of unity, therefore we have less of a tendency to “give up.”

A quote from Mr. Ramandine reads as follows: “Why should we ever tell anyone we are gay? Do straight people go around informing us they're straight?” Surely you jest! We are most certainly informed *every day* that these people are straight. At the same time, we are being given the message that we are inferior. As an example, no one seems to mind when the guys at coffee break discuss how excellent their girls were in bed last weekend, and then how many “damn queers” they saw on a recent trip to Provincetown, and how they would never do such “dirty” things. Need I say more?

We need you on our side. By accepting a “normal” lifestyle, you are casting a vote in favor of oppression by straights.

Sincerely,

Steve Johnson
Franklin, MA

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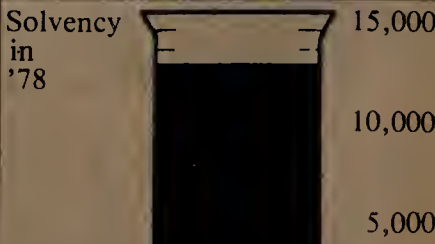
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The above thermometer will weekly show GCN's progress towards solvency in 1978. The main source of additional income will be generated by a series of benefits. You can contribute simply by attending. If you are unable to attend or wish to make a larger donation we are also encouraging people to send contributions to:

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SPEAKING OUT

Lesbian Schoolworkers Stand Against Briggs

The following was written by an organization called Lesbian Schoolworkers in San Francisco. It is the group's response to California State Senator John Briggs' anti-gay initiative which provides for "filing charges against schoolteachers, teachers' aides, school administrators or counselors for advocating, soliciting, imposing, encouraging or promoting private or public sexual acts defined in . . . the Penal Code between persons of the same sex . . ."

The response from the schoolworkers appeared in the July issue of Gibbous Rising and GCN thanks that publication for allowing us to reprint.

As gay schoolworkers, we are a potentially positive force in Education. The schools are one of the main places where children learn the differences between the roles of women and men in this society. Boys learn they are superior to girls. They learn to have more confidence in themselves and their bodies. They learn to be unemotional and patronizing toward women who are "the weaker sex." They are given praise for assertive, aggressive behavior. And they are trained for jobs with higher status and higher pay than "women's work." They are trained to take positions of authority over women solely because they are men.

Girls learn that their first place is in the home — as mothers and housewives. Their jobs outside the home most often fit in the same category — clerical workers, waitress, teacher's aide, teacher, hospital worker — taking care of adults and children — nurturing, subservient, relatively powerless. Women are taught to accept these low paid, low status jobs solely because we are women. Most women in this country work two jobs. Because society teaches that women's role is primarily in the home, employers can get away with paying us less outside the home. This is obviously to their advantage. Women who demand women's rights are no longer accepting this inferior status.

As schoolworkers, we are supposed to play a major role in maintaining this system and its divisions. Groups of workers who don't conform are a threat to the system and are targeted by it. Third World schoolworkers and communities face repression when they attempt to right the racism of the school system. Now we are facing repression as gay schoolworkers.

Gay school employees do not conform to fixed sex roles for men and women. This challenges the division of labor between women and men which threatens the very structure of women's oppression. As lesbians, we disprove the idea that women must be economically, emotionally and sexually dependent on men. This directly challenges the authority of men over women throughout U.S. society and is therefore dangerous to the government. The profits of the ruling class rely on the maintenance of men's authority over women. We know this threat to male supremacy is positive. As lesbian schoolworkers, we are committed to building a school system and a society that does not have these divisions based on race and sex. BUT, in order to be the best possible teachers for our students, we MUST have the freedom to be open about who we are.

It is no accident that the Briggs Initiative is happening now. The militant struggles of Third World people and women in the '60s won affirmative action, more equal education, abortion rights and other progressive demands. Gay women

and men also fought back against our oppression and gained pride in our gayness. In the past few years, the government has been trying to take away these gains. The U.S. economy is in crisis. As nations around the world win their independence from the U.S., such as Vietnam and the African nations, the U.S. economic crisis grows. There are cutbacks, layoffs and rising unemployment. People are angry. People are frightened. The ruling class is trying to use this situation to build a right wing base within the white working class against the rights of Third World people, women and gay people. The living conditions of the working class in this country are atrocious. We suffer from inadequate housing, poor medical care and an inferior educational system. People are angry about all of this, and the government is trying to channel that anger against those who have the least control over the way things are run. The ruling class is trying to increase economic and social differences between white and Third World people, between women and men. They are trying to win public support for such actions as the Bakke decision, anti-abortion, forced sterilization, anti-busing and Save Our Children campaigns. THEY MUST BE STOPPED.

There is an organized alliance of conservative forces around the country which is using local right wing groups to support the government's goals. The KKK, Nazi Party, American Labor Party and John Birch Society are increasing in numbers and becoming much more visible. They are united in their attacks against Third World people, women and gay people. The government is doing nothing publicly to stop these right wing groups while covertly encouraging them. The racism and sexism of these groups on a local level plays right into the hands of government strategy on a national level. Another aspect of this strategy is to give all these attacks the appearance of a grassroots campaign. In fact, they are directed and financed from the top.

Lesbian Schoolworkers has been working within the Bay Area Gay Teachers and Schoolworkers Coalition. We are building popular support against the Briggs Initiative. We have been speaking on radio and TV and to community groups. We are writing and distributing literature and a newsletter; and we are raising money to continue with our work.

As gay people in the schools, we want to fight for more than the rights of gay schoolworkers. We want to fight for the rights of students, parents and other school employees. We want to join in the struggle for quality, anti-racist, anti-sexist education, hiring of Third World staff, bilingual education, community control, and the many other demands of oppressed groups within the educational system.

"Speaking Out" is the column designed for the benefit of GCN readers. It is part of our continuing effort to provide a true forum of opinion for the community. We encourage you to send your thoughts, ideas, feelings and comments to us and we encourage you to respond to any ideas expressed in this space. The opinions expressed in "Speaking Out" do not necessarily reflect the views of the newspaper, the staff or the advertisers. Speaking Out, GCN, 22 Bromfield St., Boston, MA 02108.

COMMUNITY VOICES cont.

in support of native americans

To the Editor:

Re. Nancy Walker's Humble Pie in New Hampshire (GCN 7/29/78).

Even in the spirit of humor the reference to going through "hostile Indian territory" is offensive, because it is inaccurate and reflects cultural racism. The Native Americans were very friendly to the settlers in New England until they learned that the whites were "legally" stealing their land, and until they were hired to fight in the white man's wars. It is the whites who consciously brought smallpox to the Native Americans, and who invented and encouraged scalping. The town of Mashpee has yet to be given back to its rightful owners. We must be careful who we call hostile.

On Feb. 11 about 340 Native Americans and supporters set off on a walk from Alcatraz, Calif., to Washington, D.C. They arrived on July 15 and made pleas to the government to pay attention to equal rights here at home.

They have asked that certain bills not be made law. The Native American Equal Opportunities Act of 77 would close the Bureau of Indian Affairs, abrogate the trust relationship between the Indian peoples and the government, void all Indian treaties, and take away hunting, fishing and water rights. The Omnibus Indian Jurisdiction Act of 77 would remove all tribal jurisdiction over non-Indians and further limit tribal jurisdiction over tribal members. The Criminal Code Reform Act of 77 (S-1437), sometimes known as "Son of S-1," is a threat to the freedom of all people, and it specifically would abolish all previous treaties between Indian Nations and the federal government.

We have an opportunity to support our Native American friends with letters to our representatives and senators telling them to not vote for these bills, and stating our concern for everyone's basic human rights.

Demian
Cambridge, Mass.

our important work

Dear GCN folks,

Thanks so much for all your hard work — your paper is greatly appreciated in places like Roanoke, Virginia. I could be completely open if I had only myself to consider but my friend/lover is in a profession that would simply not tolerate a lesbian at this time — maybe not even in our lifetime. We have a few close friends with whom we can be open about ourselves but our social life here is extremely limited. We are very glad to have a newspaper that tries to cover the whole spectrum of the gay community, both male and female and nationally and internationally.

For those who wonder if it was relevant to bother with Gay Pride Marches after the setbacks of this past year — yes! It was terribly important for those of us living in the smaller cities and towns, where there are no gay rights organizations (and even if there were my friend couldn't join) and no Gay Pride Marches.

It is such a joy to see gay men and lesbians marching somewhere, even if we can't march here. I know it must seem discouraging sometimes, like the marches don't seem to change anything, but I think they do. Every time lesbians and gay men are seen it helps.

The Civil Rights Act did not make white people forget their racism and the law cannot make straights like or understand gay people. The struggle for humans to learn to accept and maybe even like those who are different, whether you're something like a dolphin who swims in the sea, or another human being who happens to be a different color, or who loves people of the same sex, it has been a long and tedious effort. It is a common trait among humans to show fear and anxiety toward anyone or anything "different." We're getting better about this, but it's a slow process.

So, please, GCN, keep up your very important work.

Name Withheld on Request
Roanoke, VG

a long way to go

Dear GCN,

In response to your editorial in the July 15 issue, I would suggest that you examine your statement of principles — that GCN "supports the aims of feminism, Third World and other minority struggles" (emphasis mine).

It may be news to you that women are a majority — 52%. We *are not* a minority, and don't like being referred to as such.

I have seen efforts to be more sensitive to lesbian and Third World struggles in GCN; however, I suggest that there is still a long way to go.

Thus while I did not consider it necessary to hiss Ed Mede's speech at the Gay Pride Rally about the Revere trials, neither did the lesbians like to hear about all the gay *men* who accomplished things in history and nothing about the lesbians.

So if lesbians seem to be sensitive sometimes, perhaps the gay men on the GCN staff could consider *why*.

As the majority I feel it would make more sense to hear and read she and he; women, men and children; and lesbian and gay men *all* the time rather than on a few liberal occasions.

Sincerely,

Virginia Hodgdon
Somerville, MA

DID YOU SEE?

The following editorial appeared in the New Haven Register, June 23, 1978. It was headlined "Do Such Polls Have Any Meaning?"

A poll taken by a national magazine of some 800 high school students has determined that Adolf Hitler and Anita Bryant are considered the man and woman who "have done the most damage in the world."

Now, we know that certain people and groups, namely those fighting for so-called "gay rights," will say "Amen" to that conclusion.

However, any polling result that would link the doings of Anita Bryant with the evil deeds of Adolf Hitler proves either (1) the long way the survey field has to go before its techniques can be considered valid and dependable, or (2) the superficiality of thought that goes into the answers.

In the case of this particular poll, it may be a mixture of both.

We're not about to defend Miss Bryant, nor do we feel she needs any defense. But it has to be a sign of something, perhaps the easy way youths are swayed by either their teachers or other influence, in adopting judgements. Certainly no one with a modicum of common sense and perhaps even a smattering of history would rate her as a woman who has harmed the world more than any other.

The competency of such polls — or of the students who participate in them — comes more into question, however, in the response to the question.

"If you could give a prize for achievement in religion, to which famous person would you give the prize?"

Ranked first was Billy Graham. In second place was God.

If you think God should have been ranked first, you're wrong too. Read the question again. God was not a proper answer.

Italian Journalist Reports on Gay Congress Held by FUORI

The following is from an article which appeared in a recent issue of the Italian political, cultural weekly "Espresso." Written by Italian journalist Giovanni Mariotti, the article was entitled "From Now On We'll All Be Very Gay: The Congress of FUORI." FUORI is the United Italian Revolutionary Homosexual Front. Freely translated, the word "fuori" is Italian for "come out."

The article was translated from the Italian for GCN by Mike Riegle.

TORINO — Does homosexuality exist? Maybe it doesn't; maybe only "homosexualities" exist: masculine or feminine, open or closeted, simply physically affective or intercourse dependent, alternate or exclusive forms of affection. The *diversi* [the different ones or gays] are not equal; this is partly why it is difficult to unite them into a single movement. Nor are they repressed and discriminated against in the same degree. Some other contradictions: some talk about being gay in the streets, but don't dare talk about it at home; one who promotes or develops gay meeting places soon feels the anguish of having actually created a ghetto; one who works in a gay political movement has to get lesbians, insipid gays, closeted gays, and gay people of all other temperaments to work together; anyone who wants to create *partito frocio* [queer party — queer is the phrase used by most straight Italians who dislike gays] will find themselves implicated in the usual banalities of straight politics, that is, in extremely ordinary relationships between disagreeing adults.

I was thinking this following the work of the 6th National Congress of FUORI at Torino. Born 6 years ago,



Members of the Italian Gay Rights organization FUORI

FUORI was the first gay political movement. What remains of it today? Apart from the symbol, it seems to me not very much. There wasn't anyone in Torino, or rather almost no one (some 50 people), and those who were there were in disagreement with each other.

Revolutionary gays? Angelo Pezzana, the leader of FUORI, admitted that the definition does not correspond to the reality. It's no longer a case of making the revolution but of fighting against discrimination and defending gay rights — the theme of the Congress was "Homosexual Liberation and Civil Rights." Besides, homosexuals are found in all classes of society, so their movement has to cross class lines.

Naturally, the question of civil rights is important and the denunciation of violence against homosexuals is inviolable. The observations made by Enzo

Francone, at the Congress, in his report "Information and Homosexuality" were correct. He said that no one would be surprised these days to read in the sensationalist press, "Horrible crime in the squalid world of homosexuals." They would be surprised to find, however, he continued, "Horrible crime in the squalid world of employees." If anything, the objection that might be made about the new reformist FUORI (and also the League for Personal Sexual Rights, whose formation was announced by Angelo Pezzana during the Congress) is another. Can a movement which concerns itself mainly with pleasures, aim itself especially at civil rights, which have always involved, as a necessary complement, a whole series of duties? Can a homosexual movement present itself in a primarily

combative form?

If I had to summarize my impressions as a journalist, I would say the homosexual movement risks letting itself be overwhelmed by the general malaise of these years—even though it would be necessary to take into account not only FUORI but the numerous other homosexual groups of which I know nothing, like the Sappho Brigades of Torino, the many collectives in Milan, the gay, socialist collectives in Bologna.

Homosexuals seek legislative changes, but laws do not touch the profound structure of prejudices. They are adopting a defensive strategy, but to me it seems that they should be adopting a more aggressive strategy. They should ask themselves how their sexual feelings relate to the general erotic economy of the society. Note, for example, how group sexual relationships lead many heterosexuals to have some contact with a homosexual experience. It seems to me that the most important task of the gay movement remains that of proclaiming its own pleasure, of showing that pleasure, and of making it flourish in all its varieties.

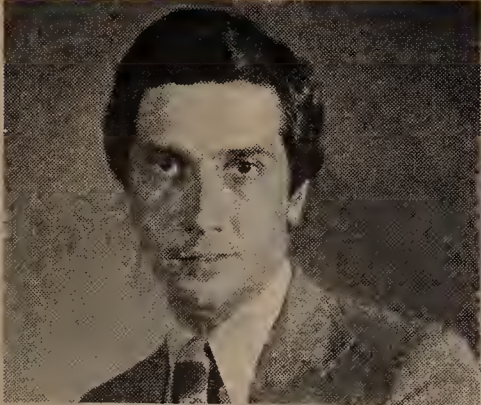
I am a heterosexual and I have the instinctive reactions of all heterosexuals. Hidden in a corner of the stage at the Congress, I was afraid of being taken for a strange and bearded queen. This is a typical vileness from which a non-closeted homosexual would have liberated himself. Maybe it would take only a little effort to destroy such ridiculous fears—making homosexual kissing as public as heterosexual kissing. Anyone who is as familiar, from childhood, with the tendernesses

Continued on page 9

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- LAST YEAR NOT LAST MONTH: While the other candidate was speaking, DELLO RUSSO took direct action at a meeting the city's planning board to initiate in the North End, the Cambridge permit parking plan to deter commuters from parking in the city.
- SIX YEARS AGO, NOT LAST MONTH: While the other candidate made appearances on T.V., DELLO RUSSO asked the licensing board to stop the flow of liquor licenses in the North End Waterfront area.
- TWO YEARS AGO: DELLO RUSSO was the recording secretary and member of the executive council for the Knights of Columbus before and during the construction of the elderly housing projects.
- LAST YEAR NOT LAST MONTH: While the other candidate made appearances, DELLO RUSSO discussed a more suitable site for the Charles Street jail with the Sheriff.
- FOUR YEARS AGO: THE OTHER CANDIDATE RECEIVED \$225,000 in grants. DELLO RUSSO asks how long will it take to open this recreational facility.

THERE'S A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A PERSON WHO PLAYS TO THE GRANDSTAND, AND ONE WHO WORKS QUIETLY AND EFFECTIVELY.

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gay community news

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Pride Week Committee Issues Accounting of Activities

BOSTON — The Lesbian and Gay Pride Week Committee here has a surplus of \$364.98 for the 10th Anniversary Stonewall Rebellion Gay Pride Week in 1979.

The Committee has issued a complete accounting of this year's activities. Total income from the celebration was \$3007.42. The report shows that there was just over \$1400 left from Gay Pride 1977; \$1046.50 was raised at this year's rally; the film benefit brought in \$354; \$145 was collected at the dance; the workshops garnered \$25; and the

Town Hall Meeting at Fanueil Hall brought in \$35.97.

The total expenses for Lesbian and Gay Pride '78 were \$2642.44. The largest single expense this year was the \$1100 spent on the rally stage and sound system.

John Mitzel of the Committee told GCN that the expense was incurred on the stage this year because the Committee was unable to get the Parkman Bandstand on the Boston Common. The free public stand was reserved for a Boycott JP Stevens rally.

Mitzel recommended that next year's Gay Pride organizers "should set a date and obtain a permit [for the bandstand] early. . . like December of this year at the latest."

The breakdown of other expenses at this year's week were as follows: postage, \$54.25; phone, \$2.55; movie projector rental, \$20; printing, \$366.99; envelopes, \$12.80; buckets, \$7.46; balloons, \$21.48; typesetting, \$28.35; talent at the rally, \$150; film rental, \$131.65; Fanueil Hall rental and security, \$187; two bullhorns, \$276.21;

workshop expenses, \$109; dance hall rental, \$50; mobile child care unit for parade, \$64.86; miscellaneous, \$59.84.

Next year being the 10th Anniversary of the riot at the Stonewall in New York's Greenwich Village, John Mitzel has urged Lesbian and Gay Pride week members to "think about fundraising during the year." He also pointed out that although there were pledges from members of the gay business community this year, no contributions were made.

Speakers' Bureau and Library *Continued from Page 1*

tutional violations inherent" in the denial of the use of the lecture hall.

The attorneys contended that library policy permitted use of lecture facilities "by organizations for public meetings of an educational, philanthropic, or civic nature." The attorneys added that at the time of the Bureau's request, the library facilities were available to and used by non-library organizations for lectures and slide shows.

On July 20, Attorney Ward wrote to City of Boston Attorney Harold J.

Carroll, who represented the library. Ward again requested the Rabb Lecture Hall, for the Speakers' Bureau, for September 5. Ward stated that he would seek a restraining order against the BPL if the matter could not be solved without litigation.

A First Amendment Question

Ward told GCN he was pleased by the call from McNiff ending the threat of the law suit. "They certainly would not have done it without that threat," he said.

Pointing out that the "law was abundantly clear" and in favor of the Speakers' Bureau in the dispute, Ward added that it has already been noted that the government cannot discriminate against a forum on the basis of content, "under the equal protection clause and the First Amendment."

In a 1972 case [*Police Dept. vs. Mosley*], which Ward was planning on using in his brief against the library, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that, "The government may not grant the

use of a forum to people whose views it finds acceptable, but deny use to those wishing to express less favored or more controversial views.

"... [the government] may not select which issues are worth discussing or debating in public facilities. . . once a forum is opened up to assembly to some groups, the government may not prohibit others from speaking or assembling on the basis of what they intend to say. Exclusion from a public forum may not be justified by content alone."

Attacks Against Gays *Continued from Page 1*

community by a special social interest group, as also happens with other minority groups, which is disturbing to that community or society. In challenging power, you run against those not wanting to give up that power. In this sense, those guys were an exponent of society to beat down the gays.

"The more the battle is heated up, the more occurrences like this you can expect. So, more resolution is needed.

"The goal of activism is to change society's views. There are also sexually

repressed people having a very irrational emotional reaction to this goal. Behaviorally, everyone has been programmed to be heterosexual. Individuals see things in others [gays] that they fear in themselves.

"Particularly in New York, to succeed you have to be aggressive. 'Faggot' is considered weak, ineffectual, and nonassertive. Gays need to point out that they're successful, creative, and assertive, that they are good teachers and good attorneys, and successful

in fields demanding discipline."

Part of the problem with social resolution will be eased when more gays and lesbians become personally self-accepting and come out of the closets, Moss suggested.

"Many individual men and women with homosexual preferences feel tremendous feelings of inferiority, both personal and public." Such people are so intense and unconscious of these feelings that other people feel the unconsciousness, too, in a "participation mystique." Such situations can trigger highly emotional fights.

"Gays (or anyone else) who have a

way of being," Moss noted, "which is not accepted or that they feel is wrong about themselves, can deny, overcompensate for, or become defensive about this way of being. The most common development is paranoia, the fear of being found out and punished.

"Coming out of the closet forces others to accept that one is not just a sexual being. Showing gayness in this different light would force others to look at their own homosexuality." Moss aptly stated, "Be an individual solution to the social problem."

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NEW YORK, NEW YORK

By Harold Pickett

NEW YORK — The "Gay Pride Day" March, June 25, in NYC should be renamed "Gay Shame Day." When gay rights bills across the country are being defeated and the national media reports political "shifts to the Right," when they *themselves* are creating those shifts by their own propaganda, a mere 85,000 marchers from up and down the whole FastCoast is pathetic. We know there must be at least a million in the combined city bars and discos on just about any Saturday night, so when it comes to a daylight march, "shame" wins out by almost a 5-1 margin.

When you add bullshit to shame, the numbers are likely to decrease even further for future marches. The amount of bullshit this year was almost overwhelming.

I opposed GCN's decision to run the cover photo and two front page photos along with the headline "New York March Sees Arrests" (Vol. 5, No. 51). A far more suitable cover photo would have shown any number of the unashamed, self-loving, free women and men marching with smiling faces. Also, I did not write the three paragraphs referring to the arrests in the "Nationwide" article.

Over the years, I've observed the side-tracking, disruptive, counter-productive efforts of four or five individuals at numerous meetings and events. A couple of them, in particular, seem to enjoy the role of professional victim and thrive on the hostility they generate. It's an amazing process to watch.

The half-dozen participants in "Gay

Walk for Freedom" (GWF) did not "lead" this year's New York march. Rather, they did not want to be part of the Christopher Street Liberation Day Committee march. CSLDC agreed with these people and with the police that the group could walk ahead of the community march. Part of the mutual agreement was that GWF would keep *at least* one block ahead of the regular march's lead banners. (When one considers the broad range of the community with its diverse members, oppressions, and perspectives, the subject of "lead banners" is no small matter easily arrived at or dismissed.) The Fifth Avenue march was, itself, illegal; there was no permit. Any individual marcher or CSLDC representative could have been arrested at any time.

Its wishes granted, GWF did not keep its agreement. The group fell back, shortening the distance between it and CSLDC. Police, maintaining the original agreement, urged GWF forward and when they resisted marching ahead, a police officer shoved. GWF marchers then *sat down* in the street, willing to block the 85,000 marchers behind them. Police arrested two GWF members, took them to the station, gave them summonses, and released them, all within an hour. Had the police not removed the sit-downers from the street, CSLDC marshals would have had to do so themselves. GWF might have preferred that occurrence. They could have more effectively accused the lesbian marshals of oppression and persecution. As it was, they tried to accuse first CSLDC and then the lesbian marshals of instigating

the police action. Actions such as GWF's belong in provocateur manuals instead of those for gay liberation.

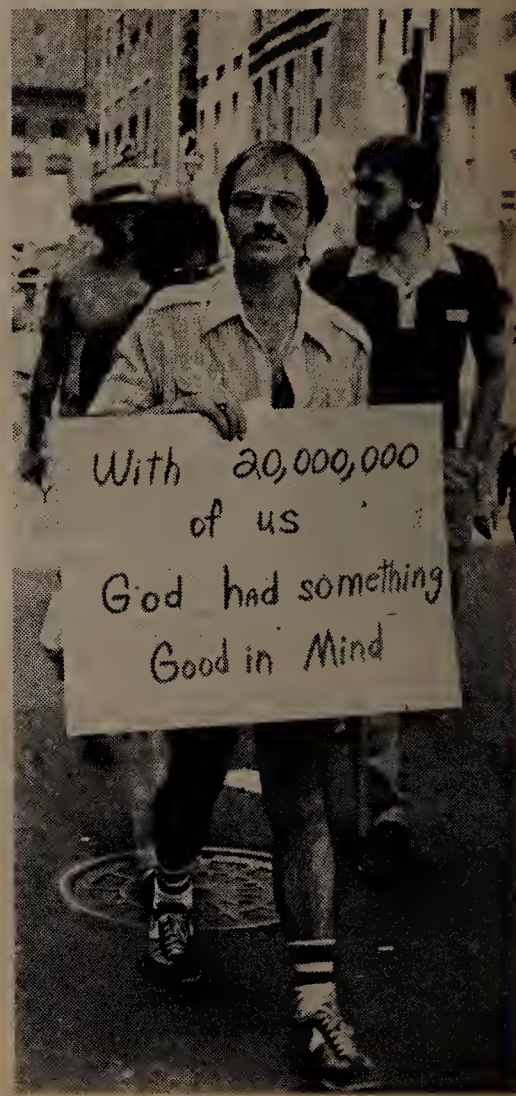
It was fortunate that most of those marching up to Central Park did not stay in Sheep Meadow for the whole rally. It's difficult enough to get people involved in political actions, but when you bore them to death with endless speakers and entertainers who can't perform well under poor conditions, it's a safe bet they won't be first in line again next year. It's about time to admit that three-hour rallies just don't work.

Two years ago, the Christopher Street Festival was viewed by many activists as counter to the march and having been instituted by the bars. After one year, the Festival was referred to as an "institution." Indications are that relations between CSLDC and the Festival will be even closer next year. Maybe it's time to limit entertainment to the activities of the Festival. After the march has made its political point, and after one or two *short* speeches, the Central Park rally could easily dismiss in under an hour. Let our activists speak from the stage downtown where people are free to come and go, expressing interest when they wish to do so, but without feeling trapped.

I'm amazed at some of the speaker's egos this year, outraged when they weren't scheduled to speak first. Every group has important concerns and needs; and every group and individual is important. However, when speakers do not stick to the main issue of gay rights, but instead harangue and abuse the audience, many of whom may be attending a rally for their very first time, we can bet they will only alienate

people and lose support for their other issues. This is regardless of how legitimate these other concerns may be. Lesbian and Gay Pride Day is not the day to complicate and to divide.

CSLDC and its member groups deserve our thanks and appreciation for the work they've done on behalf of the entire lesbian and gay community. It's too easy to just sit back and complain.



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CONTACT

By Nick Olcott

NEW HAVEN — Members of the Connecticut Gay Task Force are interested in starting a prison project to investigate the conditions gay inmates in the State's correctional facilities face and to work to change them. The project will focus initially on conditions in the E Block of Somers state prison, but the members hope to find out what the situation is in other prisons. They hope in addition to investigate the prisons' policy regarding transsexuals and transvestites; at present, inmates are assigned to facilities according to the biological sex given in their identifica-

tion, although that may not agree with their own sexual identification.

At the Connecticut Correctional Facility at Somers, openly gay men, transsexuals, transvestites, and very effeminate men, whether gay or straight, have been assigned to a segregated section of the prison, the E Block. While such segregation does protect these inmates from sexual harassment and assault by straight inmates in the general prison population, conditions in the E Block are worse than in other sections of the prison. The E Block is also used for inmates who have been disruptive or have endangered other people. Gay

inmates may find themselves in a segregated facility with just those inmates who harassed others in other parts of the prison. The E Block, in addition, has no access to the recreational facilities of the prison and may not use the gymnasium. There are no educational programs for inmates assigned to this block, and no work programs are available. Because one must work in order to earn parole points, gay men assigned to the E Block have virtually no chance to receive parole.

The C.G.T.F. prison project hopes to set up a counseling program for the inmates and to work for the

establishment of work and parole possibilities in the E Block. They also plan to set up a library of gay literature and resource materials to be made available to the inmates.

The project initiators need people to help with these tasks. Particularly needed are gay men who could work as counselors for the inmates. Anyone who can help or who has additional information about the other prisons in Connecticut should contact the C.G.T.F. Prison Project, Dai Thompson, P.O. Box 1139, New Haven, CT 06505.

Legal Action Against Police Considered After Milwaukee Raids

MILWAUKEE, WI — The Gay People's Union in this city is considering legal action against the Milwaukee Police Dept. after raids on two gay clubs the night of July 15. The group announced that it had discussed legal action with Attorney Gilda Shellow against the right of police to raid private clubs.

Attorney Shellow is representing the 11 men arrested in the raids on Le Club Finlandia and the Club Bath Milwaukee. She told a meeting of the Gay People's Union, "From the pattern it would appear that there is some kind of campaign being launched, and it would seem to me that it's ill-advised."

Shellow said that it was a "very mistaken" ordering of priorities to allocate police resources to raids on gay clubs.

According to Gay People's Union chairperson Alyn Hess, the weekend

raids raised "a major constitutional definition of what is privacy in the city of Milwaukee." He added that the police in the city "were changing all the rules." The Finlandia Club has been in existence for at least 13 years and police apparently knew of its existence.

"It's been an open secret. These clubs are not unique to Milwaukee, and all of a sudden this happens," Hess said.

The raids on the clubs prompted charges of harassment and a campaign against gays. The July 15 raids followed a raid on the Broadway Health Club in May.

According to police the investigation of the clubs began after officers received information about child pornography and sexual activity with minors. In all three raids, however, no minors were found.

The raids in Milwaukee were handled by undercover police officers who first joined the clubs. They then summoned uniformed officers after observing what they termed "illegal sexual acts." Police charged that, aside from a steam room at the Club Baths and a sauna at Finlandia, there was "no equipment one would usually find at a health club."

Nine of the 11 men charged in the

raids have been placed in a "diversionary program." One case was dismissed and the other was continued. Under the terms of the program, the men will not be charged officially if they are not arrested during the next six months. All the men were booked on charges of "sexual perversion and lewd and lascivious behavior" which are misdemeanors.

FUORI *Continued from Page 6*

of persons of the same sex — in parks, on buses, in the streets — as he is familiar with those between men and women, might not have the unpleasant feeling that I had at the Congress (and that many others like me, I suppose, would have had).

Even though, at the Congress of FUORI there was almost no one in attendance, those who attended the evening show of gay films were many. Was

it an exclusively gay audience? I don't think so. It was an audience curious to see homosexuality made public. Maybe it was an audience which sought, in those showings, the phantom of a repressed part of their own sexuality. In the end, in spite of everything, homosexuality is no longer as isolated or separated as some homosexuals seem to believe.

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Artists in Revolt

By Tony Domenick

The content of most contemporary visual art can be described as bleak, pessimistic and, in some cases, shocking and scandalous because it depicts the reality of everyday life. Contemporary philosopher William Barrett accurately describes the modern art form:

Modern art has been an immense movement toward the destruction of received and traditional forms. The positive side of this has been an immense expansion of the possibilities of art.

This philosophy is applicable to, and unconsciously incorporated into the art work of three relatively unknown but promising artists: Steve Blevins, Walter Tomasino and Steven Giuliano.

An exhibition of montage entitled *Can't You Think of Anything Else* by Steve Blevins is currently on display in Boston, at Chaps, through Aug. 8. A segment of his montage collection is featured in a four-page spread in the August issue of *Blueboy*. Montage is a collage format juxtaposing illustrations, and Blevins uses pictures taken from such magazines as *Life*, *Punch*, and *American Home* along with contemporary gay pornography.

view them humorously.

The emphasis in his montage is not on satire but on the shock value. For example, in almost every photograph phallic symbols are incorporated while characters in the illustrations look on with different facial expressions. "One of the things I think is exclusive in my work is that not all of the montages can be easily detected," Blevins said. "You have to look at them carefully before you realize there is a cock where there should be a gatepost or that there is something obscene on the television set. I think part of the appeal of these montages is that they are very sexual to begin with, especially [the pictures] from the wartime era. If you were gay then and looked at those illustrations of men touching other men and women touching other women, you would probably find them very sexy." With the current accessibility of pornography, Blevins thought it would be humorous to combine the stark realism of nudity and sex with the subtle sexual implications from magazine illustrations.

Although one of the overriding images in his work is gay-oriented,



Pacino by Steven Giuliano

Boston. The exhibition was dedicated to Nada, their underground style of art. Nada has its derivation in the Dada movement, the irrational art philosophy that came out of the revolt against World War I.

Sitting in the bare Bromfield Gallery with only a few chairs, a desk and a radio, Tomasino and Giuliano eagerly discussed their art and the expressionistic point of view it incorporates. "The purpose of Nada is to break all types of conformity and convention, especially the social and political structures of art," Tomasino told me. "I am influenced by the German Expressionists because I like their honesty. What we are trying to do is break down modern art and go beyond it."

The titles below each print depict the nihilistic philosophy of the Nada movement. As Blevins had done, Tomasino and Giuliano also explore a sexual theme. "Dog Eating Itself," "Mute Love," and "Thighs" convey a sexual and perhaps narcissistic element. "Alienation Crisis," "Horse Anxiety," and "Mourning Men" convey a negative feeling associated with existence.

"If Nada has a meaning," Tomasino said, "it's meaning is meaningless. We choose our themes from our own reality. The nice, pretty things in life are not what is real."

Most public reaction to their art has been negative; many people find the

reality of Nada distasteful. Commenting on the reaction to the exhibition, Tomasino said, "We have gotten reactions from some people such as your work isn't pretty and pleasing to the eye. For me, anyone can have a sunshine in the park scene. I see that as an avoidance because people are dodging the reality in their own life. I think this is true because they are not capable of facing themselves. They just want to be entertained."

The attitude of Tomasino and Giuliano toward their art is indicative of the outlook of the Nada philosophy. Since their art does not follow a traditional format, they do not establish any standards or guidelines. Giuliano remarked, "I think the concept and idea behind the work of art is the art rather than the quality of the work produced. For me the attitude is the art." The artists left mistakes on the prints to reflect their philosophy that a piece of art must be raw.

Although the themes depicted in their art are characteristic of gay life from the standard psychological point of view (in the sense that it deals with alienation, anxiety, and narcissism), Tomasino does not see any direct homosexual implications in their work: "Even though some of our shapes are phallic, we are not dealing with homosexuality. I think so many gay people take the attitude that they are the only

Continued on Page 14



Montage by Steven Blevins

In the living room of his duplex apartment in Boston's South End, Blevins discussed the purpose of this montage and the themes illustrated in his work:

"It started out as a kind of joke. I think some of us are preoccupied with sex and when we look at other people and objects, we can find ourselves viewing them in a sexual way. I have always found extremity to be very funny — that is, extremes taken to an absurd level where the person is shocked at what they are seeing. There is a naughtiness that we attribute to sex, that thinking about it would be bad. I think everybody thinks about sex though, so in a sense my work is a parody on myself because I do think about it [sex] a lot."

Initially when Blevins began work on his first series of montage last February, he realized the potential for design that the concept held, so as he progressed he was able to judge both the quality and shock value of each individual piece. He has some works that involve children that he decided not to show because he did not think people would

with an emphasis on the male genitals, he does not view his work solely in terms of a gay audience. "I think straight people can enjoy them as well, although they will see them differently than gays. I don't think artists should gear their work to a specific segment of the population. The more people that an artist's work speaks to, the better it is."

Of all the professions, the arts seem to be an area where gays can be candid about their sexuality. However, the decision to label oneself as a gay artist is a personal one. Blevins considers himself an artist who is gay: "My homosexuality is part of my experience which I draw upon and create. I think people who are gay first and artists second are cashing in on their sexuality."

The focus in the art work of Walter Tomasino and Steven Giuliano is as blatantly shocking as Blevins' but more dramatic in content. Alienation, anxiety and frustration are the key themes in their black and white block-type prints featured recently at the Bromfield Gallery in downtown



Dog Eating Itself, by Walter Tomasino

Poetry Is Alive and Well in NYC

By Harold Pickett

Poetry is a neglected art, not only by the general population, but by gays as well. How often do we see a magazine cover photo accompanying the premiere of a new poetry volume? A few people may recall Allen Ginsberg. Others, when hearing the word "poetry", may conjure up the image of Rod McKuen. Apart from a small minority, this seems to be the general awareness of poetry in America today.

In New York City, Shirley Powell is changing this. Her first volume of poems and short stories, *Parachutes*, was published almost four years ago. Powell is currently, as she's done in the past, conducting poetry workshops for other writers. *Womansong*, an anthology of women's poetry compiled by Powell and published by The Poet's Press, resulted from a workshop series of readings begun in 1971 by Lucille Iverson at New York University. In 1973, Powell began acting as coordinator of the series, which continued until 1974.

Shirley Powell has had numerous poems published in scattered, small journals and work included in *May Eve Anthology*, a collection of supernatural poetry. She has two manuscripts presently out of publishers and she frequently attends public readings, usually participating in the events.

In fact, it's the public readings that have established Powell as such a prominent figure. Almost more than any other New York poet, she has reached beyond the usual poetry circles, touching a much broader audience that includes college students and lesbian and gay groups. When Powell reads her excellently crafted poems, they swirl in a living dimension of subtle nuances and haunting melody. The images unfold in a far richer texture than the printed page provides. Or possibly, it's just that Powell, herself, conjures a witching magic so effective that her own familiar muse touches us, too, when her poetry potions are offered. It's an understatement to say that Powell's poetry is exceptional; it is divine.

Shirley Powell came to New York from a small town in Ohio. She says "I wanted very much to find other poets and the only way I knew to do that was to go to readings." She began doing just that. "The first reading I attended was over on Sixth Avenue, upstairs. There were three poets, a woman and two men, who called themselves 'concrete poets'. They would each read a line from a page and then turn the page over and that would be the poem. Then, they'd read another line from another page. It seemed very strange to me. One of the poets, the woman, was dressed in a tuxedo. Her name was Patti Smith." This was in the fall of '71.

This was an exciting time for Powell "when the women's movement was just beginning to get really strong. One of the early poetry readings I attended was at New York University. There were hundreds of women. It seemed so marvelous to me that there were so many women present and they were all interested in poetry."

At that same event, she first heard Barbara Holland read poetry and acknowledges that Holland "had quite a bit of influence on me in the beginning. She was the first person I heard who I could think of as a real poet." Later, Holland wrote the beautiful and almost mystical introduction to Powell's poetry volume, *Parachutes*.

By attending readings, Powell be-



Shirley Powell

came known by the poets. Often, there were open readings where people attending would be able to read from their own works. She participated in these open readings and was eventually asked to do feature readings.

Her audience grew and one year she counted "between twenty-five and thirty readings" that she gave. "I don't think I'll have that many this year . . . because I'm not going to as many readings now as I was. I thought maybe I was reading too often, because there is a saturation point unless you're reading in very scattered areas."

Though her work isn't "gay", Powell has a large gay audience. *Parachutes* was published by Mouth of the Dragon Press which, beginning in 1974, published quarterly a journal of gay male poetry. Andrew Bifrost, the editor and publisher of *Mouth of the Dragon*, arranged readings before gay groups on several college campuses even before Powell's book was published. They were immensely successful.

Powell said that "gay men, especially, are receptive to my work." With lesbians, though, "It depends on how political they are. Sometimes, they feel offended that I don't use the platform that I have to promote more political ideas. On college campuses, sometimes lesbian groups are small and they feel the need for a lot of support. I can understand, though."

HUDSON RIVER

The Hudson is like silk
caught by the cinch of bridge.
Ships rend
her seamless reaches.

Your eyes discover me,
your hand
is like a whisper on my cheek.
Our closeness is the ride of river
on the thrust of shore.

As land becomes river,
you
become me.
The Hudson slows,
building islands.

Its hunger for the stop of land
is like the hot ache
tangled in my legs
for your sweet flesh.

I know your gestures, every glance
from long ago
when this silk river first folded its deep sheen
across the searching nakedness

of land.

—Shirley Powell
Parachutes

Before *Parachute* was published, Andrew Bifrost remarked that she was taking a chance being published by a gay press and maybe she wouldn't want that. Powell admits "I did have some reservations because I knew he would be taking the book to bookstores and they would be thinking of him as a gay publisher. They might put the book on the gay shelves and perhaps people would buy it with some disappointment because it wouldn't be what they thought it was going to be. I was somewhat concerned about that."

As an artist, she knows how important support from others can be. Her family was "fiercely non-intellectual. Poetry would scare the shit out of them. I felt very lonely as far as the writing was concerned and in some other ways I felt alienated." Things were better when she reached college, but still, she says "I've never really felt like a member of the group. I've always felt somewhat different."

Powell's earlier poems were mostly lyrics. She later began writing in a more narrative style. From that, she began writing more short stories. The poems, she says, "are closest to me. I reveal myself more in the poems. I try to be as honest as I can and to talk seriously about something that has meaning to me, that has an emotional tie to me in some way. In the short stories, I'm very interested in suspense, very interested in what's real and what isn't real and how one person in life can get from the *real*, as we call it, into something else that we call *unreal*. Fantasy interests me in writing the short stories."

Some of the poems have a surreal quality. Speaking of these poems, Powell says, "I suppose there are symbols, too, in them, but they're rather unconscious symbols. I don't think in those terms when I'm writing."

She discussed writing her poem "At The Bar", which was written late at night. "I stayed at home, thinking 'Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could really get in touch with *everything*.' There's so much all around us that we could communicate and express if we could just get in touch with it." She had a feeling to write that night, "so, I very deliberately started writing. I

wrote about six poems and each one was sort of scarier than the previous one. Finally, I came to the end poem: I was living on the top floor of a walk-up building that had a skylight. I wrote about someone calling me and I swam up through the skylight to the voice. I got very spooked by that poem and I couldn't write anymore for quite awhile."

Powell's short stories reveal a surreal exploration of the distinctions and blurs between "sanity" and "insanity". Sometimes people begin to wonder about Powell, herself.

AT THE BAR

It was one of those nights
when I was standing at the bar
I saw a man bring his hallucination
in

He sat beside him (next to me)

He didn't buy it a drink
but patted it from time to time
when it seemed restless
Just one more drink and we'll go home
he said

A shadow seemed to grow there
I saw a tear fall on the bar
Wait here, he told it and went back
to the men's room

I watched it for him
After awhile I touched its hand
And that was the beginning
the edge
of all the rooms
that I keep going through

—from *Parachutes*
Mouth of the Dragon Press

"I remember I wrote a story one time," she says, "about a woman who kept seeing herself: she had a double and the double would come up the stairs after her. At the end, the double takes over her life. I was interviewed one time on radio station WBAI and the woman who interviewed me had heard me read this story. She practically asked me if I was crazy!"

"There was a woman I knew at the
Continued on Page 15

THERE IS A BOX

There is a box of salt
with a girl on it
she has an umbrella
and a box of salt
under her arm
with a girl on it
she has an umbrella
and a box of salt
under her arm
with a girl on it
she
and poems are like that
they keep being themselves
forever
they keep wrapping
and unwrapping
and there are poems
inside them
that look like them
until the last shred of skin
is peeled away

by that time the poet
should be dead
but even then
she will give
one more twitch

—Shirley Powell
Parachutes

INTERVIEW

Women Protest Columnist's View of Rape

By Tommi Avicelli

Pete Dexter, columnist for the *Philadelphia Daily News*, one of the city's four dailies, has come under fire from gay and women's groups protesting two columns dealing with a speakout on violence against women held at the University of Pennsylvania. The speakout was organized by several area groups, including Wages for Housework and Wages Due Lesbians. Dexter, in both columns, recounted how he was "thrown out" of the forum, and complained that the women were accusing all men of being rapists. The organizers of the forum, on the other hand, assert that they mentioned in their press release (a copy of which Dexter had with him that night) that the event would be open to women only. They urged the press to send female reporters.

Dexter also accuses the organizers of the forum of being "tough-talking Ms. Magazine revolutionaries" who are hurting the feminist cause. He also makes snide comments about lesbians.

Pat Albright of Wages Due Lesbians and Mary Hawryshkiw of Wages for Housework Committee have organized the protest against Pete Dexter. Support has come from as far away as Boston. Their demands are that 1) Dexter be fired; 2) a page devoted to what women are doing against rape be written by women involved with that struggle; and 3) that the women who write this page be paid for it. Thus far, the *Daily News* has not agreed to any of the demands. A petition has been drawn up by the two women and national support is being sought. GCN has endorsed the protest against Pete Dexter organized by Wages Due Lesbians and Wages for Housework.

I spoke with Ms. Albright and Ms. Hawryshkiw in Philadelphia, about the Dexter columns and the events leading up to them.

TA: What exactly happened at the speakout? Pete Dexter says he was "thrown out." Was he?

MH: That's inaccurate. He says he was thrown out in two minutes. What happened is that when he came in, he was greeted by the women chairing the forum. I might add that before this, on the press release we sent out to all the press, we said the forum and speakout would be opened only to women. Women journalists were welcomed and male members of the press who wanted to find out what was happening could come at seven and could come to the reception afterwards. He came with a press release in his hand and he was told that...if you want an interview you'd better come in now with your

questions because you'll be asked leave when the forum begins. He just sat there until the thing started and then we went and told him (he had to leave) and

PA: he made a fuss as if he didn't know.

TA: After he left, did he come back at any point to interview anybody?

MH: He called at the Wages for Housework Committee office the next day and he interviewed Selma James for well over an hour. (Ms. James is an internationally known speaker from Wages for Housework, and one of the keynote speakers at the forum.) He got a lot of information from her.

TA: What are the specific comments from Dexter's two columns that you object to?

PA: One that would hit you over the head immediately is in the article where he writes, "I looked around the room and I couldn't see anybody I remembered raping." We asked him what he meant by this, is he admitting to rape; is he making a sick joke? It has to be one or the other. Either way, it's totally unacceptable to have something like this in print.

MH: And later in that same paragraph, he goes on to say: "As a matter of fact, if they were looking for rapists there were a couple of their own people who looked more experienced than I did." Man, this kind of slander of women and of trying to discredit us by how we look or whatever is something that certain male members of the press have been trying to do since the beginning of the women's movement. And throughout Dexter's columns, there's such a blatant anti-lesbianism. We found, in talking to one woman, that he wrote a column several months ago about a protest women did over a violent window



Pat Albright and Mary Hawryshkiw

display downtown — and he described this woman as "a bulldyke who looked like she could play fullback for the Chicago Bears."

PA: And there's a line in the first article where he says, "I closed my eyes while Ms. James went on a while about rape in marriage and violence against black women" and so on. This is an outrage. We can not afford to close our eyes to these things as he can and to make light of rape as he consistently does.

TA: What about the second column — the response thing he did to the protest?

MN: The second column is even worse. His anti-lesbianism is even more apparent. He makes references to "hysterical lesbians." We called him on the numbers. He said there were only 30 people there, and we said there were at least 50. Dexter writes, "As to the number 30, that's how many heads I counted...Where, I wonder, could 20 missing heads have been at a meeting of lesbians?"

Now, we're really shocked the *Daily News* could print this crap. Gilman Spencer (editor, *Daily News*) himself agreed that it was in very poor taste.

TA: How do you feel about Spencer's comment that Dexter's column has to be taken with a sense of humor?

PA: To women, rape is no joke. There's no way we can look at it with a

sense of humor. It's not the sort of thing you can joke about.

TA: You met with the *Daily News*. What happened at that meeting?

MH: They agreed to print the apology. They're continuing to say that they're not going to fire him... but I think public pressure is mounting. Yesterday there was a demonstration in front of the *Daily News* — 40 people representing Puerto Rican, black, and white community groups. They met with Dexter to protest a column he did which was filled with all sorts of racist slurs. It was about a white couple in a Puerto Rican neighborhood.

TA: Has any attempt been made to contact this group?

MH: Yes, we've called all the newspapers to find out who it is. We found out they're going to be meeting with the editors again. So if we don't find out (who they are) before then, we'll go down and meet them ourselves. We certainly support them.

TA: One of your demands is that Dexter be fired. Do you think this is a reasonable demand, looking at it from the *Daily News*' position?

MH: Yes. Spencer himself said he'd keep Dexter or any columnist until what he writes becomes so offensive that he can't keep him anymore. We're saying that, as women, as Puerto Ricans, the public sensibility has been offended and we're saying enough of

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FILM

The Bitter Process of Socialization

It Is Not the Homosexual Who Is Perverse, But the Situation in Which He Lives

Written and Directed by Rosa Von Praunheim.

Reviewed by George Foster

"I don't think you have brought health into this at all. People are more human than that. The people in the film are caricatures of us."

"How do you think we act in real life?" countered Rosa Von Praunheim, the director of *It's Not the Homosexual Who Is Perverse, But the Situation In Which He Lives*. The film had just had its Boston premiere in a tightly packed room at the South Station Cinema as part of a benefit for the Boston/Boise Committee.

The movie, which begins a commercial run in Boston this fall, portrays the misery and self-deception of German homosexuals in 1970. Rosa Von Praunheim, with 20 films to his credit and a Cannes prize, takes a lot of abuse when he personally defends this controversial film to saddened or enraged audiences.

But that's because Von Praunheim cares about the movement and gay self-oppression. That caring was evident as the director, microphone in hand, listened to others praise or damn his work. At 1 a.m. Von Praunheim, who had just completed a documentary on the gay movement in this country, was still arguing with remnants of the audience that lingered outside the theater. He has defended his movie in



Michael Thompson

Rosa Von Praunheim

this manner before. A film clip, now part of the movie, shows his attempt to placate an angry New York audience.

But what is it about *It's Not the Homosexual Who Is Perverse, But the Situation In Which He Lives*, that provokes this reaction? In contrast to a picture like *Word Is Out* Von Praunheim's film is neither adocumentarynor sentimentally positive about the gay experience. Rather the movie resembles a distorted mirror that jolts an audience into thinking about itself. It attacks the complacency of homosexuals who define their existence around a boring and impersonal sexuality.

Reaction to the film at South Station Cinema was intense, though more favorable than its New York reception. One man said that he hoped straights would not be allowed to see the movie. Von Praunheim replied that the reac-

tion from heterosexuals was usually positive because they could share in the larger sense of oppression.

The movie generates discomfort because its narration and visual style are dissimilar. Danielle and Clement are walking down the street as the film opens. Danielle, our hero, begins his gay existence as a slick but pensive young man looking for a lover. Clement, exhibiting a leather jacket and athletic build, gives Danielle a mouth watering French kiss one minute into the film.

This fast paced style precludes dialogue between the new lovers. Instead the omniscient narrator, a strongly homophobic sociologist, starts a running clinical commentary on what the men are attempting. He calls their relationship a sad imitation of a conventional marriage. The message of the film lies somewhere between the screen image and this narrative.

The narrator comes forth with such gems as, "Fags don't like to get their hands dirty," and "After a love affair, they are left only with a sense of loneliness." These statements are easy to reject. But the narrator also says, "Fags use culture as an opportunity to get together," and "Fags have sexual freedom, but they don't derive satisfaction from it." The insidious effect of the narrator, whose monotonic voice dominates the soundtrack, is to mix homophobic prejudice with half-truths until it hurts.

The visual impact of Von Praunheim's film is striking when he parodies gay self-oppression. He explores

the world of hustlers, tea rooms, queer baiting, and "piss-elegant" bars. In one scene, members of a motorcycle gang paw each other's leather jackets until it's clear that their fetishism prevent them from loving one another.

At the story's conclusion Danielle has seen a great deal of the sordid side of life. He joins a commune of young men dedicated to living unoppressed lives. As Danielle lies naked before the seated circle of his naked peers a comic question arises. Is gay activism Danielle's triumph over his former life or is political rhetoric just a refined excuse for a sex orgy?

As Danielle grows older he progresses through various stages of gay life. His clothing becomes more outrageous. The gesture of ageing fairies who surround him are completely graceless. Anita Bryant could not have done a better job blocking out the sets. The crazy costumes and tight crotches convey no sense of celebration. Rather they point to the jaded commercial absurdity of the homosexual pose.

At the beginning of the film the audience rejected the screen images. But towards the end I and others at South Station Cinema were acknowledging the similarities between Danielle and ourselves. Von Praunheim achieves this disturbing effect by stilted exaggeration. The scenes are gaudy and ugly despite the beefcake actors. It is perhaps for this reason that the very end of the film is a clip of a Christopher Street parade, a necessary balance to the Clockwork Orange atmosphere of the movie proper.

But a more serious weakness than these exaggerations is Von Praunheim's decision to ignore the positive

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INTERVIEW cont.

Continued from Page 12

TA: What I'm asking is where do you draw the line. A lot of whites would like to fire Chuck Stone (a black Daily News columnist) for instance because he attacks their racism.

MH: When you take something like rape, there's no question of numbers. There's no woman who sees it as a joke. Every woman is offended by that.

TA: And the other two demands — how receptive was the paper to those?

MH: Well, Spencer talked about how they've been considering a female columnist, on the level of Dexter and Stone and all those others. But that's not quite what we wanted. We want a space that different women's groups could share to write about the activities we're involved with.

PA: The numerous stories about rape that they print on the front page are in gruesome detail in order to sell the paper. And these kind of articles have really damaged us. They've been detrimental to our fight against rape.

TA: How is this front page sensationalism detrimental to your struggle against rape?

PA: The struggle against rape is every bit as pervasive as rape. In covering the rapes you divide that fight because every woman is fighting rape in whatever way she can, and by only having the gruesome details and so on, you don't see the power building around you to fight it.

MH: It's also the way they portray individual fights against rape. A woman was telling us about a story in one of the papers. The headline was something like "Woman throws acid in man's face." The woman (in the story) was raped by a man. She was at

her house and the man came back and was attacking her again, and she threw acid or hot water or something in his face, and it wasn't mentioned until the end of the story (that she had been raped). It made it appear that she was some crazy off-the-wall bitch who was completely unprovoked and attacking this poor man.

TA: Dexter makes an issue out of the fact that there were speakers at the forum from Wages for Housework. Did these speakers tie in their struggle with the issue of violence against women?

MH: I think if you read Pamela Smith's article in the Philadelphia Tribune, she sees the connection very clearly. Also, it wasn't a forum on wages for housework. It was a forum

on violence and, of course, money — women having access to it — is very important in fighting violence, and that really came out in the meeting. What we were doing was coming together for the first time in the Philadelphia area to talk about violence against women in a way that we haven't done before. And we overcame all sorts of barriers. Dexter disregards that and picks up on one issue which the forum wasn't about. He also attacks lesbians. Dexter's columns are ample evidence of why we

PA: That's not what we were saying. Not all men are rapists.
MH: In Pamela Smith's article, she says, "A woman's sex life is many times wrecked and rarely will she be able to talk about the whole sordid affair unless it is among other women who have shared similar experiences." That was precisely the reason the forum was only open to women. We wanted everyone to feel free to talk about their experiences and to figure out what to do about them.
TA: Where do you go now with the

To women, rape is no joke. There's no way we can look at it with a sense of humor.

didn't want a male journalist.

TA: Dexter says that the rationale he was given for why he was being asked to leave was that women were uncomfortable speaking about rape to the perpetrators of that crime — men. He says this implies all men are rapists.

fight against Dexter?

MH: What we're doing in the meantime is spreading the word everywhere. We're also continuing to circulate the petitions, and getting endorsements from other groups.

Artists Continued from Page 10



Walter Tomasino and Steven Giuliano

ones who are persecuted, but that isn't true. There are so many other groups who face more pain than gays."

These men do not believe art should be placed in a category or labelled to follow societal standards. Tomasino defines art in terms of his movement: "Nada is the bastard child of the Abstract Expressionists," and sees himself as capable of producing art but not an artist, per se. "There is no such thing as gay art and there is no such thing as straight art. To label my art as gay is insulting. I think when any group is pushing itself for mass acceptance, they fall short of themselves by labelling themselves and becoming sensational."

Giuliano went even further and stated, "I don't consider myself to be anything. I think when you call yourself an artist you confine yourself to a role too. I go by my own standards."

Now that their exhibition in Boston is over, Tomasino and Giuliano hope to go to galleries in New York City where, according to Tomasino, "they will be more receptive to us than they are here."

All three artists' works go beyond the term Gay Art not only because of their refusal to be associated with the label but because the intent behind the art form itself goes beyond the label. It is clear that the ideas influencing their art reflect a basic philosophy of modern art where there is a revolt against the rules of a society in which the individual is a stranger.

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FILM

Latent Lesbians on Film

Getting Ready

Written and Directed by Janet Meyers.
Filmed by Sally Heckel.

Reviewed by Pat M. Kuras

Janet Meyers' first film, *Getting Ready*, was recently shown at Boston University through the efforts of Pomegranate Productions. Basically, the film is about a friendship that develops between two teenaged girls. Janet Meyers describes her film as "autoemotional" rather than autobiographical. Women will be able to relate to her filmed scenes of high school culture shock and emotional energy.

As a lesbian woman who came out to some degree at the age of thirteen, I watched the budding "friendship" in *Getting Ready* with keen interest. Val and Diana, the two young women in the film, do not have boyfriends as do their peers. Val's mother "comforts" her with "Well, maybe you'll have one soon." A boy does eventually ask her out on a date; he is awkward and pushy, unsure of how to control his society-dictated role of aggressor.

Val, much to the indignation of her parents, is more content to be with her friend, Diana, than her oafish boyfriend. Together they ride bikes, run along the beach and read poetry to one another. Parents continually interfere with the combined friendship, as well as the girls' own individuality. With her loping gait, one is told not to "act like a farmboy." Diana's father throws an offensive slap, stating that his daughter is really "getting to need that bra." The remark sends Diana scampering into the bathroom where she

disrobes to examine her body. Her father has made her feel shame for her



body, an emotion that brings pain and confusion in the wake of puberty.

Indeed, men downplay women's bodies throughout the film. In a classroom scene, a salesman from a feminine products company has shown a film about menstruation to the young girls. The Modess man, with hoof-in-mouth, contradicts himself amazingly with a rap on modern times and how women should not suffer shame for the myths surrounding menstruation; then, ends his spiel with a pitch for his products claiming, "No one but you need ever know." The girls ignore him totally, cracking gum and reading Emily Dickinson. Besides, as they comment later, what does he know about menstruation anyway?

Since Jean Cocteau's *Orpheus*, I have been fascinated by particular filmmakers' expertise with incorporating mirrors into films. Not once have I noticed a trace of the filmmaker's camera reflected in glass. Mirrors play a heavy-handed role in Meyers' film. In one scene, the girls have chanced upon an antique mirror in an abandoned house. Gazing into it, they wish that people would find them beautiful. The comment is a futile gesture; the girls realize they do not conform to their high school world, yet wish their society would accept them for what they are.

In what is perhaps the film's most memorable scene, a mirror puts a sudden halt to a timid, first kiss. Val is sleeping over at Diana's house. After a long day's activity, Val is sleeping restfully while Diana watches her. We can sense Diana's tenderness mixed with indecision. She moves slowly, intentionally, about to kiss the sleeping

Val. Then she catches sight of her reflection in a mirror. She stops immediately, and changes her loving gesture to a mere stroke of Val's hair. Again the mirror acts as society's all-seeing eye. It is there to remind the girls that they are seen by others and pressured to conform to rigid ideals.

Getting Ready is a feminist film rich in adolescent anguish, sensuality, and a boost of nostalgia for those of us beyond our teen years. The film ends on a positive note, celebrating the girls' friendship. Its moods are heightened with music by Alix Dobkin. *Getting Ready* will be part of the National Women's Film Circuit, a package of about five women-produced films which should be making its way to Boston later this year. Also, the film will "quite possibly" be shown on PBS-TV this winter. Be sure to watch for it. It is a film well worth seeing and a fine first effort for Janet Meyers.

Shirley Powell

Continued from Page 11

time when I wrote that story. She had a lot of mental trouble but I didn't know about that. She seemed perfectly fine to me, a very matronly, ordinary woman. Yet, she seemed to be drifting off into losing her mind. It upset me quite a lot. I think I wrote the story to sort of explain that to myself, to say "This is what I think it might be like. It is a little scary to get into those things because you realize you're getting into your own fears and your own way of looking at madness, or your own brand of madness."

Shirley Powell appears happy and fulfilled these days. She's in love and

enjoys domesticity. "I recommend it to everybody. If you live in a more secure kind of environment with someone that you care about and also have things that you can share, you can be very much strengthened by that. You can go out from a strong center. It's made a big difference to me."

Shirley Powell has made a big difference to a lot of people, herself. She is a rare artist who is exceptionally talented, even inspired. She is honest and pure in pursuing her art.

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THEATER

Tennessee Full Force in P'town

Kingdom of Earth

by Tennessee Williams
directed by Charles Horne
at Provincetown Town Hall
Provincetown, Mass.; through Aug. 1

Reviewed by Melvin Frankel

Among other things, Provincetown is wonderful for the professional theatre company at its Town Hall. The company has taken a difficult Tennessee Williams play, *Kingdom of Earth*, that failed in its 1968 Broadway opening, and has shaken it up to reveal the true drama.

Written after *The Night of the Iguana*, which many claim was Williams' last significant work, its claustrophobic aspect was singled out, on Broadway; its title changed to *The Seven Descents of Myrtle*; its length shortened by twenty minutes; the lighting kept dim, even in the opening scene. But the opening is filled with the quality of a campy put-on, though a timid director might not chance getting his audience giddy since the play soon turns grizzly.

Director of the Provincetown production, Charles Horne realizes that here, Williams' famous poetic language and full-flesh characters are not only stripped to the bone, but are turned in on themselves with a sarcastic bite. No chance for the audience to sit back with the heroine and dream of romantic love. Myrtle hasn't got the necessary power of reflection, as Blanche does in *Streetcar*, and, although Myrtle also has a connection with ill-famed night life, it seems she was never young, slim, and, siren enough to do anything but get in costume and introduce the other girls. And, here she is, newly wed, in the

home of her first and only husband, Lot, an asexual beanpole. After he repeatedly points out the delicacy of the parlor furniture, and the delicacy of his deceased mother, Myrtle tells him he's got a mother fixation, yet, offers to be his mother, if he'll only let her!

And so, as this production starts, Lot (bravely not underplayed by Michael Oakes) and Myrtle are set in comic high relief, in the delicately furnished parlor, against Lot's half-brother, Chicken, in the next room, in a rough-hewn kitchen. The first gesture in the play, is Lot's unzipping his fly, ready to masturbate to a girlie picture. He leans on the door and grunts for Myrtle. This Chicken, as played by Lee Taicher, is a silent but menacing animal, almost too fierce a villain for the characters in the next room; he leads the audience to expect a clash between the absurdity there and his own stark drama.

Mary Shelley develops a perfect balancing act in her portrayal of Myrtle. She appears like Carol Burnett, just short of yanking at her ear lobe, when her husband's two dimensions poke her in the ribs. She can also be intense as a 1950s "Miss," headed for a crash course at finishing school, when her husband insists he might not be all the man she needs.

With these theatrical set-ups, the incongruities begin to pile up believably, helped by the juxtaposed, but backwoods styles of kitchen and parlor, designed by Wilton Duckworth, and the increasingly-eclectic music by Richard Busch, with Janis Joplin blues to ease us into the intermission.

Myrtle's show-biz aspect is subdued by her intensity, as Chicken, in her presence, drowns a cat under a trap in the kitchen floor (this might be seen as an exorcism of both her girlishness and of the comic opening). He tells her that his name has nothing to do with cowardice; but, once there was a flood in his house, and, to survive, he drank the

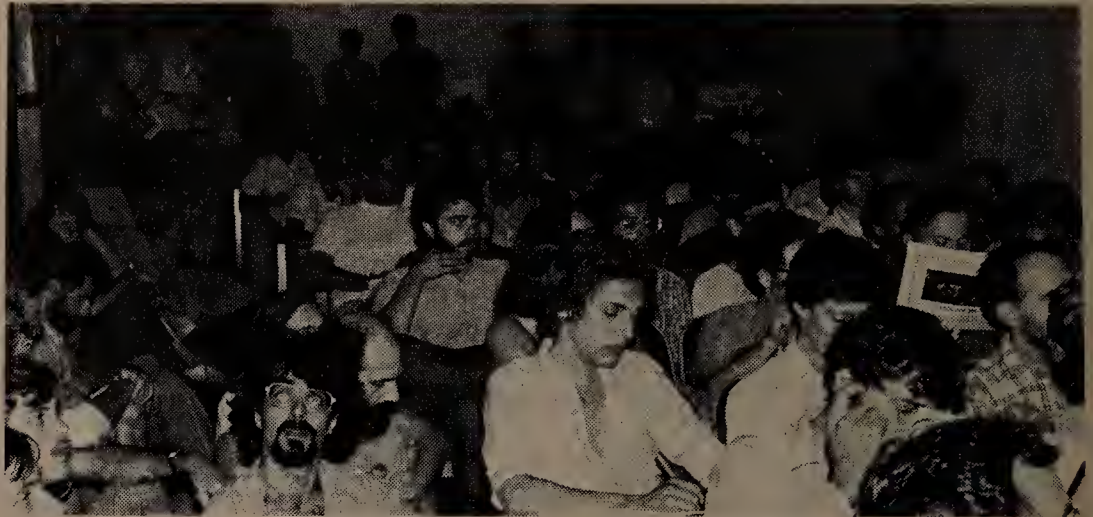
blood of a chicken on the roof.

Lot tells Myrtle that he knew he had a fatal illness when he married her, and did so to have her inherit his house and not let it fall to his half-brother who he believes is also half human since Chicken's mother was black. Lot's mother believed this, making an empty house of prejudice and of thin layers which Chicken peels away by forcing Myrtle to steal from Lot both the deed to the house and her marriage license. In an acting coup, Chicken forces himself sexually on Myrtle in a way that

makes it seem that Myrtle has lost her prejudice for his black blood, free of social misconceptions, yet with little left but raw instinct.

All Chicken can offer her is a place on the roof as the next flood comes, a place to roost with chickens. The comic high relief now bestrides grizzly reality like a charred skeleton, with one thing sure: a theatre company has brought to life a stern vision.

This production closes Aug. 1, but, certainly, it would be no gamble to attend the company's next show.



Standing room only at the South Station Cinema in Boston

VON PRAUNHEIM

Continued from Page 13

aspects of a gay lifestyle. Some homosexuals lead quiet, unobtrusive lives and have never seen the inside of a bar. Others confine sex-hunting to a portion of their life, thus freeing themselves to accomplish much.

But Von Praunheim reasons that oppression is economic, deeply rooted, and a question of degree. For him, the respectable bourgeois individual or great artist is a farce. He dislikes the Marxist label, but cannot escape it. The bourgeois individual or artist

participates in his own oppression instead of overcoming it. Oppression, defined broadly, is that combination of heterosexual aggression and capitalistic values that strangles independence.

The anger that some of us feel towards the film is not without justification. But its stimulus to self-examination compensates for any artistic weakness. As one person in the audience said, "We've been trying to present sanitized faggots and lesbians to the world for too long." It bears repeating that Rosa Von Pannheim cares about the gay movement. His film is disturbing, yet brilliant.

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PEOPLE, PLACES & FLINGS

By Lee Stone

Gay Youth . . . there is a place for you! **The Committee for Gay Youth** at the Arlington St. Church has all types of activities and rap sessions. There is a **Talent Show** planned on July 31 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. and on Wednesday, Aug. 2 there is a rap session about drugs and alcohol, same times as the social evening. There is no reason to feel isolated . . . join in the experience of knowing yourself better as a Gay person! All gay youth under 21 welcome.

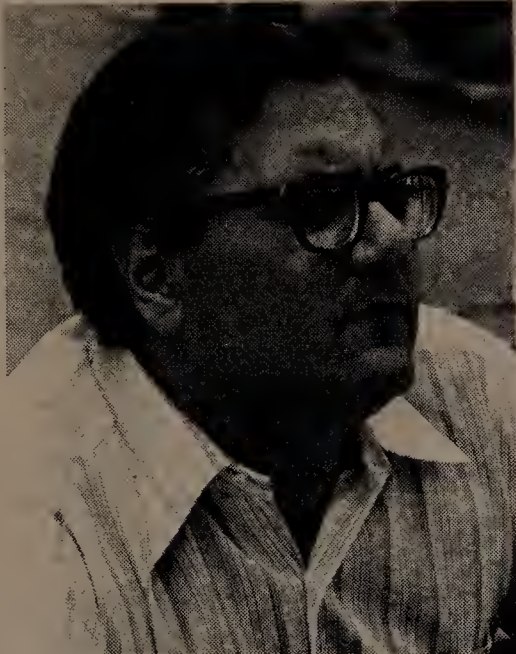
Mary Faith, a Boston favorite, will be appearing at **Sporters** as usual. Her fond manner and knowledge of nearly every Broadway musical score has endeared her to a generation or more of Boston gays. So let's hope she keeps touching those ivories for years to come!

Amaranth is sponsoring a slide show in Cambridge called **Straight Talk About Lesbians** on Sunday, Aug. 13. This woman's group has done much to bring a variety of activities to lesbian women, from picnics to dances, outings in the country to in-town counseling and rap sessions all to improve the quality of lesbian life and advance the women's movement. They are located at 134 Hampshire St. in Cambridge, for women only.

The **Blevins** show of photographic art at **Chaps** is one of the real treats in town... if he would have priced the collages and had a cash box handy, he would have bared the walls in the first evening... I did not know him when he worked for GCN, so this is strictly impersonal... What a great future he has in store! My favorite pic is the one of the magician. It behooves you to stop in and see this exhibit any night!

The bloom is definitely off the rose

at **The Other Side**... what started out as a good idea has turned into a pit. Will there ever be a place restaurant and bar workers can go after hours without being hassled by hoodlums of every description? Will there be a place where gay youth can go without being pressured into drug trips (and the qual-



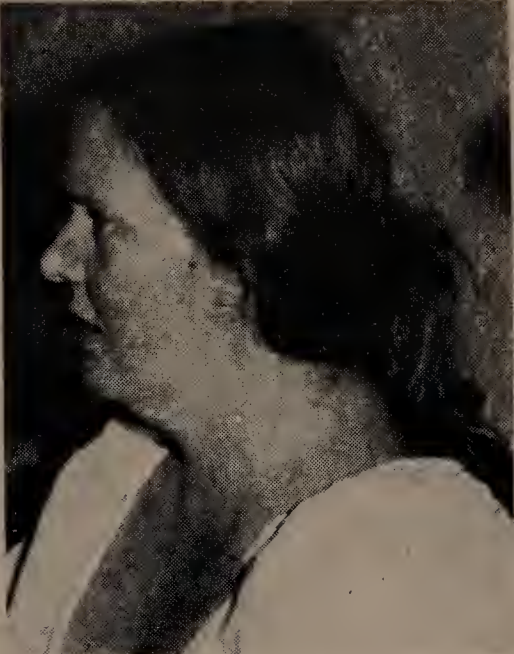
Barney Frank

ity of the acid being sold is supposed to be dangerous)? The door men at the place seem to let in who they want and refuse entrance to **Disco Tina** and **Leana Harlow** one night while letting in other "OK drags". So if you do decide to take a stroll by **The Other Side**, wear armor and a helmet, and carry a mace... traditional or canned!

Lines, mind you! Veritable lines at the **Eagle** and **Alter Eagle** on Saturday night last! It was like the first two weeks at **Darts**! Once you got in, it was back to back, belly to belly but the bartenders led by the ever genial **Mike** managed to keep up. And though the

barmen at **Chaps** are some of the fastest, they don't have to contend with mixed drinks the way the **Eagles** guys do.

Don't forget the **Flea Market** and... a benefit for GCN being thrown by the sisters at **Somewhere**. You might want to contact them to find out how to ex-



Mary Faith

hibit wares or, perhaps, crafts. The benefit will be on Sunday August 6th... check the ad or call **Somewhere** for times. Thanks again, Sisters!

The rage of the **Ogunquit** Gays is **Anabel's**. I've yet to get up there but will be writing more once I've seen it first hand!

There is a treat in store for **Lenny Bruce** fans, albeit a painful one. **Off The Wall Theater** will present two pieces of film dealing with the late comedian. **The Lenny Bruce Performance Film**, Lenny's next to the last per-

formance, full of bright wit and sad wanderings, fills this lengthy show produced by John Magnuson. The **Lenny Bruce on T.V.** segment shows Bruce in his younger days and even contains a pilot he did for television. I have experienced the first film and as a Bruceophile am dying to see the other. The showings will start on Wednesday, August 2nd, and you should call for the times and prices, as they vary from show to show. The number to call is 547-5255 and there are \$1 to \$3 shows, so it should be within everybody's budget.

Again a reminder about **Barney Frank Night** at **Tony Bosco's House Restaurant and Bar**... you can dine at 6:00 p.m. or drop in for cocktails at 8:00 p.m. on **Monday, July 31**, call 783-3151 for details and prices.

Beacon Tours will sponsor a **Windjammer Cruise** from **Tortolla** on Sept. 19. For more info contact David at **Beacon Tours** and watch this column for an update.

Two ex-Bostonians, both well-known for their media work here, appear on the brink of new careers. **Real Paper** writer **Andrew Kopkind** and GCN photographer **John Scagliotti** appeared in an outdoor production of **Alice in Wonderland**, which took place in a meadow near the Southern Vermont town where they live. One GCN contributor on the scene described **Kopkind's** acting debut, as the child-abusing Duchess as "triumphant" and praised **Scagliotti's** Oh! Mouse as a "powerful portrayal of one rodent's oppression." Although the local production ran four performances, there are at present no plans to take it to Broadway.

Comment of the week goes to the **Carnival's Joanna Lee**, and I quote... "If **Disco Tina** gets any bigger, they'll have to call him **Discoteque!**" Well... bye for now, and remember to register to vote!

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Yes, San Fran M has lovely home in Oak Bluffs, rooms are comfortable & inexpensive, comp. coffee. Everyone welcome. Call (617) 693-9422 ask for Phil. Rooms by the wk discounted. (5)

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New Guest House in town offering reasonable rates, comfort, privacy, continental breakfast, BYOB setups, parking. Two blocks to town center. Dexter's, 6 Conwell St., P'Town, MA 02657. Phone (617) 487-1911. (7)

GAY GUESTHOUSE
on large lake in N. Maine. Fish, swim, canoe etc. In unspoiled wilderness area. For information write Jack's Guesthouse, Chesuncook Village, Greenville, ME 04441. (6)

FOR SALE

Thomas electric organ with rhythm section. used very little, nearly new. Six instruction books. Cost \$1300; will sell for b.o. over \$1000. Call 661-6976, ask for Ron, between 10 and 4.

For sale, a variety of apartment furnishings, etc. For information call (617) 277-1670. Moving—must sell. (3)

Queen size mattress, boxspring frame, and king size waterbed mattress, \$75. GCN Box 899. (TG)

WANTED

We need a driver with a van or truck to donate time & truck (we'll pay gas) to help pick up donations for GCN. Call Richard at 426-4469. (c)

GCN is always in need of office furniture, paint, sofa, file cabinets, shelves and anything that is in good repair for our office. To donate contact Richard at 426-4469 (c)

PENPALS

Caution: Ripped off by GWM at Raiford. 1 year of correspondence, 1 yr of love and a bus ticket. Will sell all letters \$100.00. A good story, good buy. Write B. B. Tribou, Box 56, Turner, Maine 04282. (3)
Wanted, GWM, honest, slim, young, shy by nature. Will offer home, liberty, love. Only those honest and really interested reply. No ripoffs. Stung once, not again. Will answer all. Bryant Tribou, PO Box 56, Turner, ME 04282. (3)

PRISONERS

We get many requests from gays in prison to put pen pal ads in for them. Limited space prevents us from printing as many of these ads as we would like to, since the prisoners do not have the funds to pay for their ads. We will print more if anyone out there is willing to contribute. For each \$3 we receive we can print one more pen pal ad. Send checks to Penpals, GCN Box k92. (c)

5'11", 155, black hair, brn eyes. Sidney Davis 010501, W-3-N-8, P.O. Box 747, Starke, FL 32091. (3)

Black M, 22, very lonely, needs friends. Will ans all. David M. Harris 144-405, P.O. Box 45699, Lucasville, OH 45699. (3)

Black male prisoner seeks correspondence. Will ans. all. Willie Valentine 039293, P.O. Box 221 S.W.U., Raiford, FL 32083, D-71-120. (2)

GWM 18, nobody to write to, rejected by family for being gay, will write to anyone who cares to correspond. 6', 170, lt brn hr, green eyes and friendly. Norman Dean 021832, P-3-N-8, P.O. Box 747, Starke, FL 32091 (2)

white male 5'10", 190 lbs. brn hair & eyes, looking for correspondence with foxy t.v. or t.s. photo a must. Kenneth Jeffer No. 058585, P.O. Box 747, Starke, FL 32091 (2)

Would like a few brothers ("jocks" or otherwise — I go both ways) to correspond with. I am G/W/28 brown hair, blue eyes, 5'10", 180 lbs, fair complexion. I am a "true" Scorpio and am extremely passionate and horny. There is no censorship here—by right of the Federal Court. Dean J. McKeever, Wisconsin State Prison c/o Box C Drawer 8841, Waupun, WI 53963 (2)

Yng GM in prison seeks correspondent. Honest & sincere. 5'2", 100, blond, blue, 18 yrs. old. Will answer all. Terry Crutchfield, 039230, P.O. Box 747, Starke, FL 32091, P-3-N-5. (2)

I'm presently confined in Fla. State Prison and wld like to estblish relations with a "real Queen." I'm 5'11", 180 lbs., brown hair, brown eyes, good looking, nice physique, adequately endowed and proficient in bed. Will exchange photos. . Wilbur Bolius, P.O. Box 747, Starke, FL 32091 (2)

Will correspond with people of any national, religous or philosophical background, interested in chess, poetry, music. Curtis Walton 142-562, P.O. Box 45699, Lucasville, OH 45699. Ditto for Keith Williams, 143-489, same address. (3)

5'9". Lonely. Please write Larry Troy, 022401, N-2-N-15, P.O. Box 747, Starke, FL 32091. (3)

GWM, black hair, brown eyes, 5'8", 160, 21 yrs. Willie Rawlins, A-029762, P-1-S-14, P.O. Box 747, Starke, FL 32091. (3)

5'9", 39 yrs, 150. Butch, desire friendship. Writing a novel. Like to paint flowers, etc. Henry J. Mltchell 027157-16-2217, P.O. Box 747, Starke, FL 32091. (3)

Bi, 20, 5'11", blond, blue eyes, 155. Eddie Flaherty 050705, P.O. Box 340, H1-C1-253, Sharpes, FL 32959. (3)

20, blond, brown eyes, 5'9", 150. Billy Dean Dukes, A-055596, W-1-S-7, P.O. Box 747, Starke, FL 32091. (3)

WM wishes to correspond w/ someone who cares. Danny Lee Goforth, 032929, 61-211, P.O. Box 221, Raiford, FL 32083. (3)

24, brn h, blu eyes, 5'10", 146. Richard A. Miller A-039323, E-55, P.O. Box 221, Raiford, FL 32083. (3)

Bi wants discreet gay or bi not to play games, together person, no nonsense. Joe Andrew Swiecicki 041362, P.O. Box 747, Starke, FL 32091. (3)

31 yr old would like to receive mail from gays. Robert W. McDonald 027279, W-1-N-1, P.O. Box 747, Starke, FL 32091. (3)

WM wishes to correspond with someone who sincerely cares. Will ans all letters. Mark Blanton 037127 — 72-114, P.O. Box 221, Raiford, FL 32083. (3)

WM 22, brn hair, gray eyes, 5'11", 155. All gay fems please write. Wesley Johnson 055448, P.O. Box 747, Starke, FL 32091. (3)

ORGANIZATIONS

In New Jersey, the Gay Activist Alliance/ Morris County meets every Monday at 8:30 p.m. using facilities of Unitarian Fellowship , Normandy Heights Rd., Morristown, NJ. Info: (201) 691-0388.

AFFIRMATION
For United Methodist Lesbian & Gay Male Concerns — New England Chapter. For information and/or support reply GCN Box 902. (47)

GAY ACTIVISTS ALLIANCE NJ
—Men and women — Militantly gay — milltantly proud — Join us at 176 Kansas St., Hackensack, NJ, every Fri. at 9 p.m. Political action caucus Tuesdays at 8:30 p.m. (201) 343-6402.

BOSTON GAY CATHOLICS
Dignity / Boston sponsors EXODUS MASS, a liturgy for gay and concerned Catholics, every Sunday at Arlington Street Church (Boston), Boylston St. entrance, at 5:30 p.m. For Info. contact Dignity/Boston, 355 Boylston St., Boston, MA 02114. Tel. 536-6518. (35)

NGTF NEEDS YOU
Join with the largest, fastest growing gay civil rights group in the country! The National Gay Task Force works with a professional staff on media representation, national legislation, information clearinghouse, religious reforms, corporate non-discrimination statements, more! Help support our work — join now. \$15 membership (\$5 llimited income) includes Newsletter. NGTF, 80 Fifth Ave., Rm. 506, New York, NY 10011.

Metropolitan Community Church of Boston, services each Sunday at 7:00 p.m. (hymn sing 6:45), 131 Cambridge St., Boston (Old West Church). Edward T. Hougen, pastor. Office 523-7664. All persons are welcome.

SUPPORT LESBIAN MOTHERS
Lesblan Mothers National Defense Fund, 2446 Lorentz Place, W. Seattle, WA 98109. (206) 282-5798. Membership \$5.00.

BOSTON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST GAYS AND LESBIANS (BUUGL), an inclusive group of religious liberals working to provide opportunities for community building among lesbians and gay men, meets every Sunday evening at the Arlington St. Church. 355 Boylston St., at 7:00 pm. Lesbians especially welcome. For more info call Bob Wheatly at 742-2100. (D49)

PUBLICATIONS

Before you stop trying to find a lover try us. Advice, Fantasies, Personals. Twelve issues \$10; sample \$1. You're Not Alone, P.O. Drawer 8398CH, Atlanta, Ga. 30306. (c)

FOCUS
A monthly journal of fiction, articles, poetry, book reviews, etc., by, for and about gay women, 1 year subscription (12 issues) \$8. Sample copy 75c. Always sent in plain envelope. Focus, Box GCN, 1151 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, MA 02138. (c)

The Wishing Well: The largest Nat. Magazine featuring hundreds of self-descriptions of gay women (by code number) wishing to write and meet with confidentiality. \$2.50 per issue. Also escorted group travel tours for gay women. Box 664, Novato, CA 94947. (8)

GAY SCENE — The Picture Homophile Monthly in 8th Year of Publication. News From Everywhere; Movement News; King's Reviews (Stage, Screen, Book & T.V.); D.D.'s Best Bets; Lesbian Life; Articles; Nude Plaything of the Month; Religious News; Personals; and More. Send \$1 for sample copy. \$8.00 for 12 issues (in Plain Envelope) To: REGIMENT, Box 247, Grand Cent. Sta., NYC 10017.

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B6 B7 B14
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B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 B8
B10 B11 B12 B13
B17 B19 B20 B21 B22
B23 B24 B26 B27 B30
B32 B34 B35 B36
B38 B40

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INCOMPLETE TEST RESULTS AND
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AND THURS. 1-2 P.M.:

B45 B25 B28 B29
B31 B33 B37 B39

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CALENDAR

The deadline for Calendar Items is Wednesday at noon for the following issue.

29 sat

Boston — Boston Gay Health Project announces free VD testing by the Gay Health Collective in Bridge Over Troubled Waters' Medical Van. Anonymous (by ID#). 5pm to midnight: 5-6:30pm, Copley Sq. (near Chaps); 7-8:30pm, Combat Zone (near Playland); 9-10:30pm, Sporters (Cambridge St.); 11-midnight, The Fenway (near Eagle). Have you had your summer checkup?

30 sun

Boston — Clearspace. Boat trip to Nantasket Beach. Open. Call 227-4327 for info.

Boston — BUUGL will continue discussion on how families deal with gayness. 7pm. 355 Boylston St.

Boston — David Socia—Photographs 1971-1978. Opening, 6-9pm. Joy of Movement Center, 393 Boylston St.

Framingham, MA — Lambda of Middlesex. Picnic at Milford Quarry. 12pm. Call 877-8550 for info.

Cambridge, MA — Closet Space (WCAS 740am). A lecture by John Gerassi, author of *The Boys of Boise*. 9am.

31 mon

Washington, DC — Gay Counsel on Drinking Behavior. Lambda Rising, 2012 S St. NW. Information and referral about drinking problems. 6-8pm.

Allston — Barney Frank Night at the House Restaurant. 100% of proceeds to go to the Committee to Re-Elect Barney Frank. Dinner 6pm; cocktails 8pm. Call 783-5131 for info.

NYC — All the Queen's Women. Open softball game. 8:30pm. Kissena Park (Kissena Blvd. & South Memorial).

Baltimore — Maryland Gay Rights Coalition mtg. 8pm. 2133 Maryland Ave. (S.E. cor. of 22nd St. & Maryland Ave.)

Boston — Social evening for Gay Youth. 7-9pm. Parish Hall, Arlington St. Church

NYC — All The Queens Women Young Adults Rap, for high school juniors and seniors. \$1. 7:30pm, 23 164th St., Flushing. Info: (212) 359-9204.

Boston — There will be a meeting at State Rep. Mel King's home for those interested in working on King's re-election campaign. 7pm. 4 Yarmouth St. in the South End

USA — ABC-TV will broadcast a *Police Story* episode entitled "The Ripper" — two officers track down a killer of gays. 11:30pm. Monitor this program and respond to Mr. Richard Gitter, ABC-TV, 1330 Ave. of Americas, NYC 10019.

Boston — Out Here: Social evening Gay Youth. Talent Show! Bring refreshments and talent. 7pm. 355 Boylston St.

1 tues

NYC — West Side Discussion Group. "Gay Marriage — Can it ever be made legal?" 8:30pm, Triangle Gay Community Center, 3rd floor, 26 Ninth Ave. at 14th St.

USA — GCN subscription rates go up on this date. In order to subscribe or renew at the old, lower rates, your order must be postmarked by July 31.

USA — ABC-TV will air *Carter Country* episode entitled "Out of the Closet" about a teacher who comes out. 9:30pm. Monitor this program and respond to Mr. Anthony Thomopoulos, ABC Entertainment Inc., 1330 Avenue of the Americas, NYC 10019.

Boston — Beginner Signing Class starting for lesbians and gay men every Tuesday, 7:30pm. 131 Cambridge St.

2 wed

Cambridge, MA — Open House at Women's Community Health Center. Tour and introduction to the Health Center. 5:30pm. 639 Mass. Ave. Rm. 210.

Boston — Out Here for Gay Youth. Rap Session: Drugs & Alcohol. 7-9pm. 355 Boylston St.

3 thurs

Cambridge, MA — Gay Folk Dancing. 6:30-9pm at Phillips Brooks House, 3rd floor, Harvard University. Live music.

NYC — The Gay and Lesbians Couples Club will meet at 8pm at the Triangle Gay Community Center, 26 Ninth Ave. at W. 14th St.

Boston — Hot Peaches presents Oscar, a rhythm and blues revue of the life and times of Oscar Wilde. Boston Arts Group Theatre, 367 Boylston St. Through Sunday. Info: 267-8518.

Boston — Ella Ellson will be reading her poetry at a celebration-reading at Harriet Tubman House, 566 Columbus Ave. 8pm. \$2.50 donation. Info: 964-1009.

5 sat

Boston — Gay Mountain Climb up Mt. Adams, NH. Sponsored by Gay Unitarians. Overnight. By reservation only. All welcome. Info: (603) 883-5583.

Quincy, MA — Clearspace: Potluck dinner and open house. Open to all lesbian women. Info: 646-8598.

Randolph, MA — Appreciation Party for Barney Frank at the Randolph Country Club. Tickets, \$5. Sponsored by the Committee to Re-Elect Barney Frank. 12 noon. Info: 961-2414.

6 sun

Irvington, NJ — Women's Caucus Picnic for Dignity women and friends of the five New Jersey chapters, and of the NY, Brooklyn, Long Island and Westchester/Rockland chapters. Information: (201) 278-8445.

Boston — Benefit for GCN at Somewhere. Flea Market and more. 295 Franklin St. Info: 423-7730.

8 tues

NYC — West Side Discussion Group. David Rothenberg, president of the Fortune Society, will speak. 8:30pm. Triangle Gay Community Center, 26 Ninth Ave. at 14th St.

9 wed

NYC — MCC/NY Choir Rehearsal. 8pm. Triangle Gay Community Center, 26 Ninth Ave.

Boston — Out Here for Gay Youth. Rap Session. 7-9pm. 355 Boylston St.

Framingham, MA — Lambda of Middlesex organizational mtg. 8pm. Call 877-8550 for info.

10 thur

Cambridge, MA — Boston NOW presents "The Naked Truth: The Cultural Conditioning of Women via Advertising." A slide show produced & presented by Jean Kilbourne. 8pm. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. \$2.50 benefit for Boston NOW.

11 fri

Ramapo, NJ — An Open Conference on Men and the Male Role. Ramapo College. Aug. 11-15. Info: (201) 273-5072.

Boston — Clearspace invites all women and men in the gay community to a Booze Cruise from 8-10pm. Music by Liliith. Price, \$6.50. Meet at 6:30pm at Somewhere, Franklin St.

12 sat

Middlefield, CT — Women's Music Festival to benefit Casa Myrna Vasquez. All day. Tickets, \$4. Performers include Kay Gardner, Felicidad, New Harmony Sisterhood Band and more. Call (800) 243-3760 for info.

Boston — Rev. Troy Perry, founder of MCC, will speak at a Community Rally and Celebration of Gay Voter Power. Sponsored by the Mass. Caucus for Gay Legislation. \$3 admission. 7:30pm, Arlington St. Church.

13 sun

Cambridge, MA — "Straight Talk About Lesbianism," a slide show, Amaranth, 134 Hampshire St.

Hartford, CT — Dignity and Integrity will celebrate together. Service at 5pm, Trinity Chapel, followed by a pot luck picnic in the garden.

Boston — Rev. Troy Perry, founder of the Metropolitan Community Church, will be conducting the MCC Boston service at 131 Cambridge St. at 7:30pm

17 thurs

Mt. Pleasant, MI — The Michigan Women's Music Festival! Presented by the We Want the Music Collective. Write 1501 Lyons St., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 for info.

18 fri

Long Island, NY — The monthly board meeting of the New Coalition for Human Rights of Long Island will take place at Pal Joey's East, Deer Park at 8pm. A benefit and buffet will follow at 10pm. \$3 donation. Info: Gayphone: (516) 665-7373.

20 sun

Hamilton, Canada — *Living as a Gay Person Today*. A week long conference at Unicamp of Ontario. Write Unicamp, 269 Aberdeen Ave., Hamilton, Ontario. L8P 2R3 for info.

24 thurs

Toronto, Canada — Gaydays in celebration of lesbians and gay men. Come to the fair, concert, dance, picnic. Aug. 24-27. For more info, write 4 C St., Toronto M4W 1L7.

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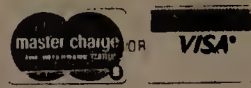
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